

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, September 27, 2012

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In the pink

Ladies turn out to give support to cancer race

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Boxing clever

Olympic fight trainer helps to start college academy

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Hughes that?

New bike and new team for high speed rider

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Merry Hill will get £1m fun complex

A £1MILLION entertainment complex is to be created at the Merry Hill shopping centre, with attractions including an ice rink and the highest indoor high wire in Europe.

The new leisure site, which will be called Quest, will include five attractions, both indoor and outdoor. It is earmarked for one corner of the centre between Debenhams and Sainsbury's and aims to be open in early November.

Paragon Entertainment bosses said it would include a 14 metre high indoor rope course spread over four separate levels with 20 different activities including the highest high wire in Europe.

There will also be a cafe, adventure golf course and a young children's aerial ropes course.

Outside there will be an ice rink on an area which is a car park. Six jobs will initially be created for the scheme.

Paragon Entertainment chief executive Mark Pyrah said: "A lot of what we are putting in the plan is about getting kids active, we look forward to get the plans off the ground."

Two planning applications have been submitted by Paragon Entertainment to Dudley Council for the work. People have until October 3 to comment.

Ramsden's diner shuts

WORLD famous fish and chip shop chain Harry Ramsden's has closed its restaurant at the Merry Hill shopping centre with the loss of 14 jobs.

The company has shut the restaurant at the Brierley Hill complex following losses of nearly £1 million since 2010. The 160-seater restaurant, in the lower level of the centre, has already been boarded up.

The news comes as a Clinton Cards shop closed at the weekend. Six staff have been transferred but others have lost their jobs.

GAS FIRM GAFFE BILL IS £25,000

by Alex Ross

NATIONAL Grid must pay out £25,000 after leaving a Halesowen house at risk of explosion because an engineer accidentally drilled through a gas pipe.

Homes had to be evacuated in Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, when neighbours smelled gas, a court heard. The level of gas in Vicki and Trevor Webb's home was more than double the amount that could cause combustion. Dudley Magistrates Court heard it would have only taken an electrical switch to spark an explosion after two tonnes of gas leaked into the house.

The retired couple were on a two-week holiday in America when work was started on August 20, 2010. An engineer using out-of-date pipe mapping records drilled through a plastic pipe near their home.

The road was closed and homes were kept empty until the area was made safe in the early hours of the next day.

Mr Simon Belfield, for the Health and Safety Executive, said the records should have been updated at least four years earlier. The highest reading of gas levels within the couple's home was 30 per cent – between five and 15 per cent could result in combustion.

Upgrade
Mr Belfield said: "There was a failure by National Grid to upgrade its pipe records, that created a risk of danger."

Mr Peter Smith, defending, said record keeping had changed following the incident to ensure plans of the network structure were kept up to date. "The company is extremely sorry and is remorseful," he said.

The company was fined £17,500 on Tuesday after it pleaded guilty to the breach of general duty to an employee as a result of inadequate record keeping in relation to the structure of the network, and ordered to pay £8,192 in court costs.

Mrs Webb, aged 59, and her husband, 62, said they "couldn't believe" what had happened. Mrs Webb added: "We came back off holiday and it was like Beirut, there were holes in the ground everywhere round the house."

"When we were told what could have happened, we couldn't believe it. We thanked our good luck."

"The whole house could have gone in an explosion, and us inside."

Mrs Webb said: "We have lots of plans for ways we can raise the money and we want to hold some big business dinners so we can get some support from local firms. This is our opportunity to demonstrate that we want to build on the success of the Olympics."

Warning as pet cat is shot



Rachel Biggs and her cat Smudge, who was shot in the leg with a pellet gun

ADISTRAUGHT Halesowen pet owner says her cat has been left unable to walk properly after it was shot in the leg with a pellet gun.

Rachel Biggs, aged 29, is warning other pet owners to be on their guard after three-year-old Smudge was shot.

She found the pet limping across her drive in High Park Road, when she returned home from work. When the cat was examined by vets they found a pellet lodged in its right leg,

and Miss Biggs had to pay £450 for it to be removed. Miss Biggs, who also has a one-year-old Corgi called Murphy, said: "It makes you wonder, if they would shoot an innocent animal, would they shoot a child?"

"I'm worried about it happening again."

Smudge now has stitches in his leg.

Miss Biggs, a teacher at Haybridge High School in Hagley, added: "I am horrified this has happened."

Theatre battlers rallying support

CAMPAIGNERS have issued a rallying call to the public to air their views as they battle to save Dudley Hippodrome from demolition.

They announced plans to hold their biggest public meeting next month in a bid to drum up more support for the campaign.

Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome will host the meeting at the Station Hotel where acts including George Formby stayed when appearing at the venue.

They have invited councillors attending the meeting on October 14 starting at 6pm to outline their plans to rescue the Castle Hill landmark.

Group leader Geoff Fitzpatrick called on people to attend the meeting at the hotel, in Castle Hill, to hear the latest on the plans.

"We are hoping for a good turnout to keep the momentum going as the campaign moves forward," he said.

Group members have now collected a 10,000-strong petition demanding a rethink on the plans for the theatre.

● Go – Page 5

200 sign up to save Rest

MORE than 200 people have signed a petition to save a former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen from being sold off by the council.

Campaigners have held a public meeting to grill officials from Dudley Council on the building's future.

They say community groups and organisations have come forward asking to be able to hire the building on land between Alexandra Road and Wall Well.

Fears have been raised that the building, which was most recently used as a day centre, would be demolished to make way for housing. Councillor Donella Russell who is leading the campaign to save the building, has called for a rethink.

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HALESOWEN

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Traders seek gas works compensation

TRADERS left hundreds of pounds out of pocket after a road was closed for gas main works are to seek compensation in a bid to recoup their lost earnings.

Businesses in Park Road, Woodsetton, say they have lost out on passing trade while the scheme has been taking place at the top of Mason Street, which leads to their road. They claim trade has not picked up even though the road has

now been partially opened one-way. Only a small number of vehicles are now using the road, traders said.

The one-way system is to remain in place until the first week in October when work on Mason Street will be completed. Work will then move to nearby Shaw Road.

Traders said they would be seeking compensation and were already getting advice on the best way of making a claim. One trader said he

had lost around 25 per cent of his business. The mains work has been carried out by National Grid Gas. It is one of a series of utility schemes which has been taking place in the borough over the summer months.

Jaz Singh, who has run the Bramford Hardware store, in Park Road for eight years, said shops had been badly affected.

"I think most of the shops in this block will be seeking compensation.

"I certainly intend to do so," he said. "I have lost around 25 per cent of my trade while these works have been carried out. People simply haven't been using the road and we have lost passing trade."

National Grid Gas spokesman Jane Taylor said: "A compensation scheme is in place and to my knowledge all of the traders in this area have been supplied with information packs."

Pink parade defies the weather for life race



And they're off the Race for Life gets underway in the park in Dudley



From left, Paula Round, Jan Wallis, and Samantha Jones, who all come from Rowley Regis



Left, Claire Davies, of Woodsetton, and Jodie Wynne, of Sedgley



In the pink - Nicola Farrington, Kate Meeo-Salt, and Valerie Salt



Women brave the rain and get ready to take part in the Race For Life, held at Himley Park, Dudley

THOUSANDS of fundraisers braved the rain and biting cold to run the Race for Life at Himley Park, after the event was cancelled months ago.

Torrential downpours left the park too waterlogged to hold the event in July, but come rain or shine, fundraisers were determined the race would go on at the weekend.

The day was split into two races with around 1,500 people taking part in each - one at 10.30am and the other at 2.30pm.

The park was transformed into a sea of pink

for the event as people ran, jogged or walked the 5km course, helping to raise a combined £300,000 for Cancer Research UK.

Among the fundraisers was Kate Meeo-Salt, a 45-year-old learning support practitioner running in memory of her Spanish father Carlos Mateo, who died of cancer when she was just 14.

Mrs Meeo-Salt, a mother-of-two from Great Barr, ran with her mother-in-law Valerie Salt who is herself a breast cancer survivor aged 67, and Valerie's daughter Nicola Farrington, a recruitment consultant living in Halesowen.

Between them the trio raised £260.

Mrs Salt, a mother-of-three who works in a petrol service station, added: "We have all been touched by cancer."

Fundraiser Jan Wallis, of Haden Walk, Blackheath, did not let the weather dampen her spirits. She was taking part for the fourth year in memory of her grandmother Bessie, who died in 2005.

Mrs Wallis completed the course with Rowley Regis friends Paula Round and Samantha Jones, aged 19, who was walking in memory of her grandmother Sally. Other runners included mother-of-three Lorraine Evans.

Gripes on care from council in slight fall

MORE than 200 complaints were made about adult social care services in Dudley in a year which is a slight drop on last year, according to new figures.

According to the annual adult social care complaints report 209 complaints were made by the public in 2011/12, a drop from 223 the previous year and 134 in 2009/10.

And there were no findings of maladministration by the Local Government Ombudsman for the same period.

The complaints included issues over services being inadequate, information being inaccurate and assessments being delayed.

The timescales for resolving complaints during 2011/12 remains satisfactory, with the majority of all complaints seeing a resolution within 10 to 20 working days.

Some 106 complaints have been resolved or responded to within 10 working days and a further 40 were concluded within 20 days this year.

Another 56 were responded to after the 21 days and seven are ongoing.

The report goes before the select committee on health and adult social care on September 26.

Pub will be apartments

A BOARDED-UP pub near a Dudley beauty spot which had attracted vandalism will be transformed into five apartments.

Proposals for the Dry Dock pub, Windmill End, Netherton, have won the backing of Dudley Council planners.

Strict conditions have been imposed on developers to ensure if any bats are found then they are protected.

The pub neighbours Bumble Hole and Warrens Hall nature reserves which hosted last weekend's Black Country Boating Festival.

Autumnal walk

A GUIDED walk to take in the autumn colour of the Clent Hills, near Stourbridge, will start at 10am on September 30 from the Nimmings Wood car park. Book on 01562 712822.

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Stricter rules on venues

STRICTER operating conditions have been imposed on two night clubs and a bar in Dudley following a shooting at one of them.

A licensing panel at Dudley Council has added a combined 96 conditions to the licenses for Hustlers and Code in the town centre and Indulgence in Brierley Hill.

The conditions were laid down following a request by police on the grounds of crime prevention.

A man was shot in the arm while on the dance floor in nightclub Code, King Street, on June 23.

The bar Hustlers is owned by the same person, Gulzaman Khan.

Police licensing officer Alan Taylor said there had been 40 reported crimes in Code since 2010, ranging from thefts to grievous bodily harm.

Mr Khan told the hearing: He added: "I have no problem working with police to ensure the nightclub is safe." On Indulgence, Mr Taylor said inspections had found out-of-date fire extinguishers and evidence of drug use. Owner Steven Simpson, said: "I have always done everything by the book, I am being victimised by trouble at other places."

Groups get cash grants

COMMUNITY groups and charities across the Midlands have earned grants in the BT People Awards.

Eleven groups in the West Midlands have received grants including: Kidderminster Carolians Rugby Club - £500; Brierley Hill Swimming Club; Cradley Town Cobras Junior Football Club and Pedmore Primary School PTA in Stourbridge all got £217.

John Dovey, BT's regional director for the West Midlands, said: "We were really impressed with the calibre of applications we received; the judges had a hard time."

Litter pick event

RESIDENTS on a Black Country estate have organised a litter pick and are asking people to volunteer for the clean up.

The event has been organised by Ellowes Hall Tenants and Residents Association and will take place on October 6 from 9.30am. Helpers can meet at Ellowes Hall School, Lower Gornal.

Graduate stole £18,000 goods from his work

A UNIVERSITY graduate systematically stole £18,000 of gold rings from the shop where he worked to fund nights out, cinema trips and computer games, a court heard.

David Bacon took up to 150 nine and 18-carat gold rings from the Cash Converters store in Dudley over an 18-month period, a judge heard.

The 24-year-old, who has a sports and science degree, turned to crime in his first full time job after leaving the University of Wolverhampton.

The city's crown court heard none of the

items were recovered. Prosecutor Warren Stanier told the court: "He stole a significant quantity of jewellery, particularly rings with a value estimated at £18,000."

Bacon was one of eight workers at the store trusted with a key to the cabinet where the valuables were kept, the court heard.

An audit check revealed a significant discrepancy in the stock in April and a secret spy camera was installed at the shop.

Bacon was filmed taking four rings from the display cabinet on June 26 and two

days later he was pictured taking two more and a video game, continued Mr Stanier.

He was arrested on July 12 and immediately admitted what had happened.

Bernard Porter, defending, disclosed: "He had previously lived a blameless life and this was his first job. The crime started as an isolated incident when he was short of money."

"Temptation took hold when this went unnoticed."

"He realised that he had got away with it and did it again. Before long a trend had

developed." At an earlier hearing prosecutor Mark Cooper told Dudley Magistrates: "These thefts were not to pay off bills or debts but to fund a lifestyle."

He said money from sale of the stolen jewellery was blown on nights out, trips to the cinema and the purchase of Playstation games.

Bacon, from Carshalton Grove, admitted theft by an employee between January 2011 and July this year.

He received a nine-month jail sentence, suspended for 18 months and was ordered to do 300 hours unpaid work.

Firm to pay £25,000 after worker's head was crushed

A COMPANY which admitted breaching health and safety regulations will have to pay a £25,000 court bill after a worker's head was partially crushed in a pneumatic, metal press.

by Adam Burling

Wayne Hill, a maintenance engineer at H&E Knowles Limited in Brierley Hill, was repairing the press when it unexpectedly started working and trapped his head.

He was trapped for around 10 minutes before colleagues were able to free him.

He suffered horrific injuries, including a broken nose and jaw, Dudley magistrates court heard.

The 42-year-old also suffered cuts to the back of his head and neck, muscular damage to his left arm and severe neck pain.

He needed extensive reconstructive surgery, said HSE inspector, John Glynn.

Mr Hill also needed counselling after suffering nightmares and flashbacks.

He was off work for nearly five months but has since returned to the company.

A Health and Safety Executive investigation into the accident, which happened at the company's Talbots Lane site on August 18, 2011,

found the machine had a faulty interlocking guard.

The court heard the press, which takes a sheet of metal and forms it into a wheelbarrow body, should not have been able to operate if the door was open but the fault meant the machine did not detect this.

Designed

Magistrates were also told the machine was designed and built by the company 25 years ago.

Mr Glynn said the machine regularly broke down.

The firm, which also has a base in Cradley Heath, pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £18,000 with £7,220 costs.

Speaking after the hearing Mr Glynn said: "Mr Hill was extremely lucky not to have lost his life in this entirely preventable incident."

The firm declined to comment following the case.

SVR has eye on the prize

THE Severn Valley Railway is vying for a top award at a Worcestershire ceremony.

The line, which runs from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth, is up for visitor attraction of the year and website of the year at the Worcestershire Welcome Awards.

The winners will be announced at the Worcestershire Welcome Awards Ceremony on October 18 from 2pm at Worcester Rugby Club, Sixways.



Tribute - team captains Stuart Bate and Paul Pickering at the memorial game

Cricketers turn out in memory of Richard

DOZENS of old friends and members of the region's cricketing fraternity gathered for a memorial game at a club where a popular player died during a match.

Pedmore Cricket Club held a 40-over per side fixture in tribute to Richard Beaumont, a popular character around the Midlands cricketing scene.

The 33-year-old from Halesowen died after suffering a heart attack while playing for the first team at the club in Pedmore Hall Lane.

Mr Beaumont, a former police officer and care worker, collapsed during a home game against Astwood Bank on August 4.

He leaves wife Becky and four-year-old son Harley, parents Bob and Judy and brother Ryan.

Players from Richard's former club Romsley, Pedmore and around the Worcestershire and Birmingham leagues made up two teams for the fixture.

His brother Ryan played for the Pedmore/Romsley XI while the game was umpired by Richard's father Bob.

NEWS in brief

Power tools took in raid on barn

POWER tools worth more than £2,500 have been stolen from a barn near Kidderminster, say police.

Thieves targeted an unlocked barn near Curslow Lane, Chaddesley Corbett, between 9am and 1pm on September 10.

They stole a Stihl chainsaw worth £450, a £300 Stihl leaf blower, a £420 Stihl disc cutter and three Husqvarna chainsaws worth £1,650.

Anyone with information should contact Pc Wallace on 101, quoting incident 660-S-140912.

MP is backing disability move

DUDLEY South MP Chris Kelly is backing a Black Country youth charity's scheme to campaign for better disability awareness training for shops.

Whizz-Kidz provides children and young people with mobility equipment and runs Ambassador Clubs, where young disabled people can make friends and learn life skills. Mr Kelly attended the Dudley club's meeting and backed the ambassadors' call for "Talk to me, don't ignore me" training programme for retailers.

Mother's running brings in funding

A SCHOOL lunchtime supervisor from Dudley has completed the Great North Run and so far raised more than £300.

Dee Bradley, 41, from Stourbridge, who has three children and works at the town's St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, finished the 13-mile course in one hour and 48 minutes. Her current fundraising total is £335 for the Starlight charity.

RNLI is looking for volunteers

THE RNLI is looking for people in Worcestershire who would be willing to go to schools, youth groups or community events to talk about the charity.

The volunteers would be part of the RNLI's education team and would be given training. Call Heather Malkin on 07500 608222 or email www.rnli.org.uk

Fun run funding

HALESOWEN College students have raised £90 with a fun run. BTEC Sports students at the Whittingham Road site will donate the cash to Macmillan Cancer Support.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



STRANGE old world. When I wrote recently that Kate should not have sunbathed topless, I put on my tin hat, retreated to my slit trench, expecting endless flak defending a woman's right to disrobe. In fact the vast majority of correspondents share my view. Show us Brits a human right worth defending and we will fight for it to the death. Removing one's bikini top in view of a public highway is a self-indulgence, nothing more.

□□□□□□□□

IF the Profile (Radio 4) programme on Andy Murray was intended to make us warm to the champion of the Olympics and the US Open, it failed. Murray came across as a young man who, from childhood, has been a terrible loser with a shocking temper. There is a world of difference between a champion and a national treasure.

□□□□□□□□

I HAVE just spent an afternoon in hell assembling three flat-pack kitchen units. Much blood, sweat and tears went into installing the soft-close drawers. These are the ones that can never be slammed. Instead, a dinky little piston gently pulls the drawers closed. But why? When did we become a nation of compulsive drawer slammers, cupboard slammers or, for that matter, toilet-seat slammers? I blame EastEnders.

□□□□□□□□

AND off to the hairdresser for my last number-four all over, love, before my daughter's wedding. According to the experts, a haircut takes between two and three weeks to look its best. We shall see.

□□□□□□□□

AS THE Wedding of the Century draws ever nearer, we have confusion on the wedding-present front. A guest points out that one of the happy couple's requested items has two meanings, depending on how you pronounce it. What is an aubergine toaster?

□□□□□□□□

I SHARED my tale of flat-pack woe with the hairdresser who said she, too, once tangled with kitchen cupboards and was left with terrible blisters from using a screwdriver. Fortunately, she added, her husband stepped in to help. He bought her an electric screwdriver. Ah, the age of chivalry is still with us.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Museum link road will be ready early in 2013

A LINK road between the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo will be completed in February 2013.

Work will then start on a 1,000 space joint car park for the attractions. The £10 million project to join up the two sites has been in the pipeline for years and a timescale for work has now been drawn up. A new joint entrance will be built for both sites with a link road as part of moves to attract one million visitors a year.

Council bosses have revealed work on the car park will begin in April once building finishes on the link road, which will be accessed from Tipton Road.

The car park, with 1,000 spaces for cars and 22 for coaches, is set to be completed in summer 2014.

The road will run from near the former Trading Post premises in Castle Hill to the back of the museum in nearby Tipton Road.

It will also provide access to Dudley Canal Trust at the back of the museum. The plans became a reality when a bid for £4.5m of European funding was approved last year.

Just weeks ago £600,000 was allocated from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership's Growing Places fund for the car park. Up to 480 jobs are expected to be created. Meanwhile the £6 million archives is due to be finished in July next year.

Heritage boss lauds zoo plan



Front, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands, Reyahn King, and Dudley Zoo Chief Executive Peter Suddock, with, back architect Larry Priest, Dudley Zoo Trustees Chairman Neil Cutler and Councillor Dave Tyler

THE head of heritage lottery funding in the West Midlands believes the renovation of four iconic buildings at Dudley Zoo will spell a revival for the attraction.

Reyahn King visited the zoo last week, regarding a programme of work for the restoration of the Tecton buildings, including the safari gift shop and entrance.

The work to renovate the structures, which date back to 1937, is being funded by

a £1.15million lottery fund granted last year. Mrs King said: "This is a really elegant set of buildings and it is great news that renovation work will be carried out to preserve them."

"When the zoo opened in 1937, it was seen as a new utopia to have the open green space so close to the town centre with these beautiful buildings inside. I have real hope this work will bring back that feeling."

Funding bid to buy castle is delayed

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to buy a castle near Kidderminster have delayed submitting a vital funding bid to allow more time to work on the proposal.

Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust originally planned to submit its application for first-phase funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund this month.

But members said they had decided to put this back until December to give them more time to develop the bid.

They said the delay was within set deadlines and would "save time in the long run".

If the bid is approved, a second, more detailed, application would then be submitted to secure the cash required to finalise the sale.

The trust agreed a price of £2.45 million with the Church Commissioners, which owns the site, just over a month ago.

The Grade-I listed castle, once home to the Bishop of Worcester, has been deemed surplus to requirements.

Music at centre

TWO music events have been announced at Sedgley Community Centre.

On September 29 the Ashmore Male Voice will perform from 7.30pm. Tickets £4 on 01902 885816. Sedgley Live will be on October 27. Tickets £3 on 07971 739042.



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Couple to pay back £40,000

A COUPLE from Dudley have been ordered to repay more than £40,000 they fiddled in state and council tax benefits.

Rana Amir, aged 42, and his wife, Mandip, 30, fraudulently picked up the cash in income support and council tax benefit over three years. The couple, of Winfield Avenue, Kingswinford, declared themselves incapable of work, with neither earnings nor savings – but Rana Amir was selling TV and film equipment online.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard more than £83,000 went through a Halifax bank account.

Recorder Mark Warby ordered them each to repay £20,367, which includes £1,367 each compensation to Dudley Council.

He warned the couple: "If it is not paid in six months there will be a prison sentence each of 12 months."

Rana Amir was jailed for 10 months just over a year ago, when Mandip Amir was given an 18-week suspended prison sentence. Both admitted fraudulently claiming income support between 2005 and 2009 and council tax benefit between 2006 and 2009.

Centre fun day

A COMMUNITY centre in Halesowen will hold a fun day at the weekend.

The event will be at The Hope Centre, Andrew Road, between 11am and 3pm. The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram will be attending and there will be food, dancing and stalls.

The Hippodrome needs to go says living museum boss

THE boss of the Black Country Living Museum has given his backing to the controversial demolition of the historic Dudley Hippodrome, saying it was important for a multi-million tourism masterplan.

Andrew Lovett, the attraction's chief executive and director, said the emotion of campaigners fighting to save it should not be the overriding factor in keeping the landmark. He has now written to Dudley Council pledging the museum's support to the demolition plans. He says the demolition is "necessary" for the wider regeneration of Castle Hill linked to the £10 million scheme. His comments come in the same week that English Heritage criticised the proposal to flatten the landmark building and create a 120-space car park.

Campaigners disappointed

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozers spoke of their disappointment after the boss of the Black Country Living Museum backed calls for the building's demolition.

They vowed to strengthen their resolve to rescue the landmark despite the comments from museum chief Andrew Lovett in a letter to Dudley Council.

Mr Lovett wrote the attraction supported the demolition plans. Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group leader Geoff Fitzpatrick said he had hoped the museum would get on board with saving the historic theatre.

"The Black Country Living Museum should be working with us, including Dudley Zoo and the council," said Mr Fitzpatrick.

"The Hippodrome would bring visitors to the area and the museum. Far from supporting the application I thought they would at least take an impartial position if they were commenting."

Mr Fitzpatrick, a former lecturer who used to live by the theatre revealed the group is now devising a more detailed financial plan for council officers on how the theatre could be successful. This latest plans will be submitted to the authority by the end of October.

"On balance and taking into account everything, we thought that demolition is right, as sad as that might be, and I know there are a lot of people with heartfelt feelings towards it," he said.

"We feel the wider redevelopment of the Castle Hill area must take precedence."

Letter

"While we do conserve the history of the buildings on the (Black Country Living Museum) site I do not consider it becoming a graveyard for buildings."

In his letter to the authority's planning department, Mr Lovett said the museum did recognise the Hippodrome's "social importance to past generations".

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group leader Geoff Fitzpatrick said the comments were disappointing, adding he had hoped the Dudley-based museum would get on board with saving the historic theatre.

"The Black Country Living Museum should be working with us, including Dudley Zoo and the council," said Mr Fitzpatrick.

"The Hippodrome would bring visitors to the area and the museum. Far from supporting the application I thought they would at least take an impartial position if they were commenting."

Liam gets ride of his life



Liam Kumar who fulfilled an ambition to go on a trike ridden and owned by John Murphy with Carl Dadds from Streetbike

TEACHERS and staff from a Halesowen motorbike dealers came together to make a school pupil's dreams of going for a spin come true.

Earls High School pupil Liam Kumar, aged 12, had struck upon the idea of going on a motorbike ride from a book presented to him by one of his teachers.

The youngster, from Halesowen, suffers from duchenne muscular dystrophy.

The school's technology technician Billy Whitaker contacted staff from Streetbike motorcycles, Mucklow Hill, and they arranged for Liam to ride on the back of a Honda Goldwing 1500 trike, ridden by regular customer John Murphy.

NEWS in brief

Extension plans given green-light

PLANS to extend a house in Pedmore have been given the green light by councillors despite objections from neighbours.

Dudley Council's development control committee approved a single-storey side extension for the property in Dorchester Road. Owners reduced their original plans for a two-storey extension at the site, the committee were told. Five letters of objection were received from neighbours concerned the scale of the development was not in keeping with the area.

Society talk will focus on Titanic

THE History Society at Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, are to hear a talk called Titanic – Life in the Balance.

Andrew Lound, a world-renowned authority on the Titanic disaster, will give the talk at Belbroughton Church Hall on October 24 at 8pm. Entrance is £2.50 and non-members are welcome. For further information call Sarah Bradley on 01562 731025.

Owners planning to reopen pub

OWNERS of a closed pub in a village near Kidderminster have said it will reopen with new licence holders soon.

The Old House at Home, Blakedown was closed on August 16. But owners Scottish and Newcastle Brewery says it is in advanced discussions.

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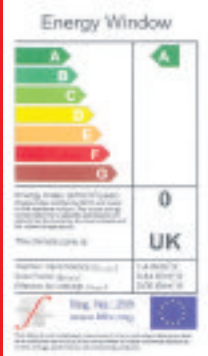
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NEWS

Ban on 61-year-old who used catapult on swans

A 61-YEAR-OLD man caught firing a catapult at swans on the river at a spot popular with day-trippers has been given a Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order (Crasbo).

Edmund Wade was arrested after firing at the swans from the bridge and riverside in Bewdley on August 26.

Kidderminster magistrates heard he had also been drunk and abusive and gave him a two-year Crasbo. Wade, of no fixed address, had at an earlier hearing been fined £50 for each of three offences of disorderly conduct.

He admitted making sexual gestures towards a police community support officer in Horsefair, Kidderminster, being abusive to Wyre Forest District Council officers called to Springfield Park, Kidderminster, after complaints about him on August 8 and the swan incident.

The order bans him from causing anyone harassment alarm or distress by using foul, abusive or offensive language or gestures.

It further bans him from being drunk or disorderly in any public place and being in possession of an open vessel containing alcohol in any public place other than licensed premises. Wade cannot remain on any property if asked to leave by staff and is banned from entering an area of Wolverley bordered by the B4189, Lowe Lane, Fairfield Lane and Franche Road. Pc Andy Wallace, said West Mercia Police had received at least 30 calls about Wade's drunken and abusive behaviour over the last two years and he had been arrested five times.

Dance class for over-50s

DANCE classes, sport and massages are being held at a community project for people aged over 50.

The Springboard Project, run by Age UK, is held at Brierley Hill Methodist Church on October 1. Call 01384 572365 or email meryllhactivitycentre@ageukdudley.org.uk.

Fashion shows its style



Clothes showcased at Merry Hill's Fashion Takeover event for shoppers



Dancers entertain the shoppers during the fashion event

SHOPPERS were treated to dancing fashion shows and style tips at Merry Hill's latest catwalk extravaganza.

Fountain Square at the shopping centre in Brierley Hill was transformed into a beauty hub showcasing fashion trends for autumn and winter.

The Fashion Takeover event saw shoppers treated to mini-makeovers, expert advice from health and beauty retailers and per-

formances by dance troupes wearing the latest clothing available from stores at the centre.

Themes ranged from city slick and gothic boade to urban floral and military looks.

Merry Hill's marketing manager Kelly Reed said she was delighted with the event.

"The Fashion Takeover weekend proved to be a huge success and we are delighted with the feedback from both shoppers and retailers."

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LETTERS

All this fuss about topless shots

ALLOW me to say at the outset that I think the Royal Family did a sterling job over the summer.

What with the fantastic Jubilee celebrations and the hilarious Olympic stunt, not to mention Prince William and his beautiful wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, who have won the hearts of the nation.

I am the strongest supporter of the monarchy, and have the greatest respect and admiration for the Queen.

OK, here comes the but. The headline news recently centred around some photographs of The Duchess of Cambridge, sun bathing

topless on holiday. Yes, they've done it again, with their super-zoom lens the paparazzi seized an opportunity to parade our beloved Kate in all her natural glory in the pages of a glossy French magazine.

This, hot on the heels of the naked Prince Harry fiasco!

The groundbreaking news was delivered with sombre gravity, live on lunchtime TV. I wholeheartedly agree that Prince William and The Duchess of Cambridge should be allowed total privacy when not on public duty. However, the fact remains they are public figures, the future monarchy

and from previous bitter experience with the paparazzi, surely a lesson should have been learned.

Let's get real, no one has died. Brave soldiers who have given their lives for our country have paled into insignificance, compared to the headline grabbing coverage, in all it's sombre gravity, dedicated to our royal holidaymakers.

They say, if you've got it, flaunt it. In this case, perhaps not - you can't beat a classy one piece.

SUE HARRIS
Wolverhampton Road,
Kingswinford

Always ask questions regarding medication

RE: report on statins by Chris Mallett (Aug 29) regarding a study done by Sir Rory Collins.

After years taking a statin my husband became ill with muscle weakness, depression, memory loss and mood swings.

On one visit to a consultant my daughter and myself read what he had written - possible statin induced. We were never told.

After numerous tests and one operation he has slightly improved but nowhere near how he was. Although side effects are rare it's heart-breaking to see when they happen.

So, although I respect the academic status of Sir Rory, from my experience I must disagree with him. Everyone must ask questions about their medication, it is their right. So I don't take too much notice of studies.

Y HILL
Manor Park
Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Cost of church tea was at boiling point

MUCH has been broadcast on TV about rip-off Britain, and it now appears the church has joined the rip-off brigade.

My partner and I went into the tea room of a well-known Birmingham church. I ordered coffee and tea for my partner. The price list for a pot of tea for one was £1.45, a bit high but less than motorway services and stately homes prices.

Because the tea from these outlets is usually weak and my partner likes strong tea I asked for an extra tea bag to be put into the pot and I would pay for it. They charged me £1.47 for the tea bag.

When I said that's more than a pot of tea they refunded 2p.

So we got charged £2.90 for a pot of tea for one with two tea bags, no extra water, milk or sugar, just for one tea bag to be dropped in the tea pot. Rip-off or not?

This year there will be no Christmas draw tickets in my home for the churches, money saved will be given to well-known charities who do not rip you off.

MRS D R ROUND
Svan Street
Pensnett

Who's to blame for job cuts at museum?

THE chief executive of the Black Country Living Museum, Andrew Lovett, is coming up with loads of excuses as to why visitor numbers are "below expectations".

He's blaming the economy. He's blaming the weather. He's blaming petrol prices. I believe the blame lies with the person he sees in the mirror. One of the first things he did when he took charge a few years ago was to cancel the TUC chainmakers festival.

In doing this he not only turned his back on a lucrative block booking which celebrated key exhibits, but also alienated and upset thousands of people.

Now we hear he's getting rid of some costumed staff - the people whose local knowledge and enthusiasm breathes life into the museum.

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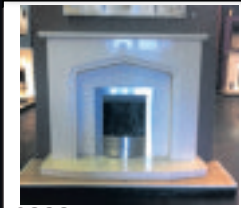
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Clive's transformation

A working union between two dental professionals is helping to bring about life-changing outcomes. Retired sales director Clive, right, with wife Margaret, was terrified of dentists. Read why now he's recommending his friends book in to see them.

Suction solution

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is now available.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says the invention has the potential to improve the life quality of those experiencing long-term problems with ill-fitting teeth. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices.

All on 4 now here

ONE of the most advanced restorative options for denture wearers is available in Wolverhampton and Dudley. An implant system called All on 4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day. **Call us for more details.**

Traditional options

THE work of the Denture Clinic has found satisfied customers from as far away as Spain. Its hand-crafted dentures, made in laboratories on the premises, are known for their natural look. Clinic principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "I remain passionate about resolving denture problems and for many, quality, traditional dentures can bring about hugely effective results."

CLIVE was so afraid of the dentist he plucked up all of his courage and begged him to extract all of his teeth so that he'd never have problems ever again.

That was more than 20 years ago, but what the retired sales director didn't know was that his tooth troubles were far from over.

Following the extractions dentures were fitted and he no problems for a few years. It was a welcome break from the pain he had experienced and the catalogue of dental disasters he had endured.

But the natural ageing process began to take its toll and Clive experienced stability problems with the lower denture as his gums receded. For five years he endured the embarrassment of dentures, sore spots on his gums and denying himself some of his favourite foods. "It took real determination to face up to the problem and the prospect of more dental work."

Clive recalls his first dental nightmare: Stationed at Malta while in the Royal Navy, he suddenly had raging toothache the night before he was due to play in a football match.

"I'd been drinking to dull the pain but as soon as I was back on board the duty dentists was summoned. He'd been drinking too and when he injected me with the anaesthetic he broke the needle."

"I eventually had to have an X-ray so he could find where the needle was. That was me finished. I'd do anything to avoid the dentist from there on."

In recent years Clive has had four den-

ture relines to help the stability issues, but none provided a long-term solution.

Flashing his new smile and laughing heartily, Clive adds: "Things were so bad that if I turned to the right my teeth would still be facing forward."

"I can't stress how big a deal it was for me to get things sorted. I was terrified, so when I saw a piece in the paper about Steven Burchell and suction denture technology, I agreed to see him."

Clive's gum erosion was too severe for the suction system to work effectively and he decided to have implant-retained dentures. He was referred by Mr Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), whose Denture Clinic is based at the Parkdale Dental Clinic in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, and North Street, Dudley, to implantologist Mr

Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc. Mr Pugh, principal of the Parkdale practice, carried out the surgery and the prosthetics were hand-crafted by Mr Burchell.

Clive recalls the procedure. "I was dreading it, but all I felt was a sensation that Mr Pugh was rubbing my gums." Clive's wife, Margaret, adds: "It's true! I was allowed to sit in with Clive. We were both treated excellently."

Since having the implant-retained dentures, Clive has been able to bite into crispy apples and indulge himself with pork crackling. "I feel comfortable and confident, it's the best money I've ever spent and have recommended both Steve and Jon to friends."

NEWS

Life-saving device given at memorial to Luke, 15

LIFE-SAVING equipment has been donated to a Midland rugby club after a 15-year-old boy died during a match – as a tournament is set up in his memory.



Luke Chapman

Luke Chapman was killed by a heart abnormality which struck him as he played for Hagley's Haybridge High School at Baxter Business and Enterprise College, Kidderminster, on March 20. Now The Hearts of England Association is donating a defibrillator to Old Halesonians RFC in Hagley, where Luke was an up-and-coming player.

Coaches and first aiders will be trained in the coming weeks to use the equipment.

It comes as his former school friends and team-mates prepare to stage an under 16s rugby tournament on September 28 at Haybridge High. It will be an annual event involving seven other local schools competing for a memorial cup. In March 2013 there will be an annual under-16s event involving local clubs at Old Halesonians.

Last week Luke's other team, Old Halesonians RFC, staged a match against a side made up of pupils from Haybridge High and Hagley Roman Catholic School.

Old Halesonians won 37-12 and Haybridge High's director of rugby, John Wragg, said it was a "brilliant game". He added: "We wanted to get everyone together to remember Luke. At Luke's inquest, Birmingham Deputy Coroner Miss Sarah Ormond-Walshe, recording a verdict of natural causes, said she would write to the Department of Health asking for a national heart screening."

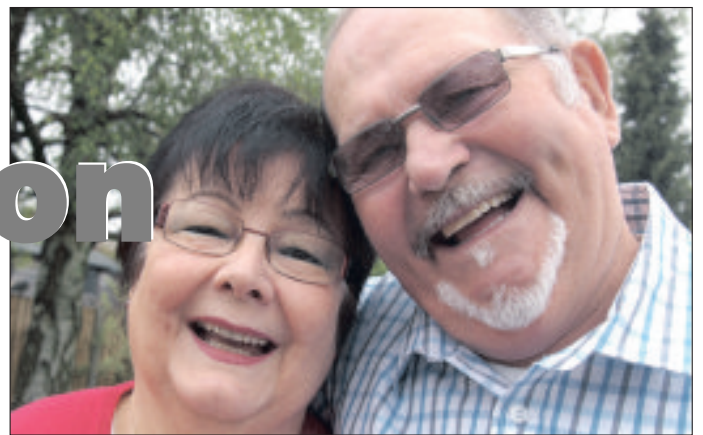
Invite to coffee morning

PEOPLE in Wyre Forest are invited to a charity coffee morning between 10am and 12.30pm at Bewdley Baptist Church, Load Street, on September 27. The event is part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Haybridge High School captain Dan Simfield and captain of Old Halesonians RFC Josh Patton at a memorial match for Luke Chapman

Advertisement



A Navy nightmare is finally overcome by the power of creative dentistry

Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc. Mr Pugh, principal of the Parkdale practice, carried out the surgery and the prosthetics were hand-crafted by Mr Burchell.

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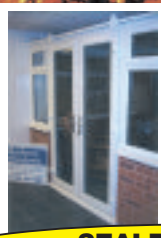
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MEMORY LANE



The carved head of Edward III that looks down on the congregation



A Victorian etching of St Peter's, the oldest parts of which date to 1,200



The Lady Chapel, one of the first parts of the current church to be built

Why does a king look on the congregation?

WHERE does the name Wolverhampton come from and why could St Peter's Church have become a Cistercian Abbey?

Why does King Edward III look down on the congregation and who paid for the building of a grander church?

If you have an interest in the above questions, and would like to make a small donation towards the upkeep of our city's most important architectural and historical feature, take a look at the two recently produced fundraising booklets on sale. Lady Wulfrun's Hampton and Wool Town Church give the answers and the story of how the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Heantun emerged from the Dark Ages with its Minster Church of St Mary.

Royalty in the form of Lady Wulfrun refounded the Minster with lands at Bilston, Willenhall, Wednesfield, Pelsall, Featherstone and other outlying small settlements, and several priests, known

By Anthony and Joyce Perry

as a "college", to look after their spiritual well-being.

The first dean in charge of this collegiate establishment, Sansome, was among those who were close to King William, and was responsible for his Domesday Survey of the country. He became Bishop of Worcester, and annexed Wulfrunhamton or Wurenehampton – the first form of the full name of the town – to the Priory of Worcester.

King John, the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury agreed to replace the priests with a community of Cistercian monks and to build a new abbey about the year 1200, and the oldest parts of the existing church were the beginnings of this new building.

However, when the archbishop died the idea was abandoned and a new dean installed.

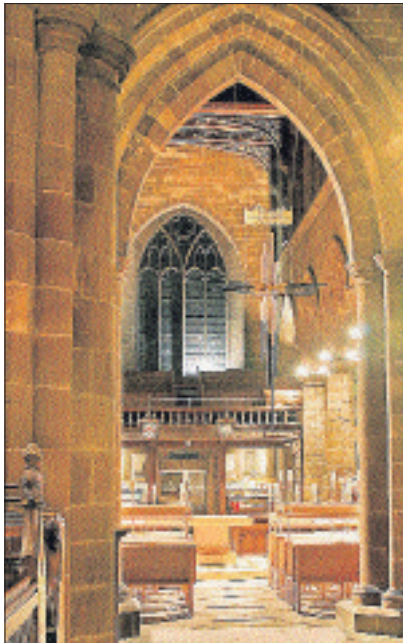
During the 13th and 14th centuries the dean in effect ran the town, with charters for a market,

fair, borough, court and wool fair. The town became wealthy through the wool and cloth trade, with sheep brought in to be penned in the Folds and sold in the sheep market, sorting, scouring and spinning the wool, making cloth, and the most wealthy being the merchants, who paid for St Peter's to be enlarged and built in the grand style we see today.

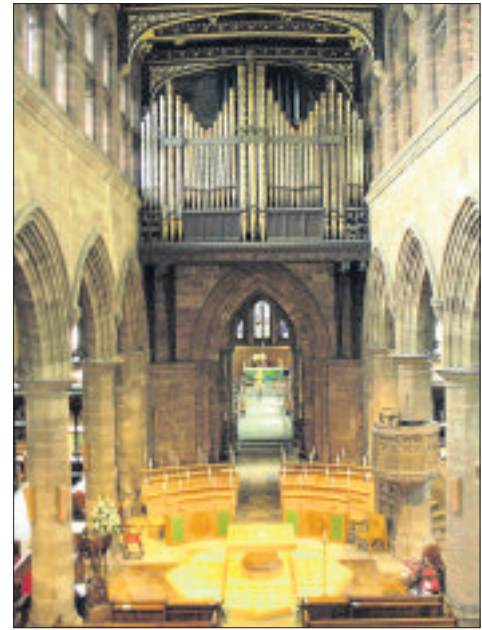
The church was a Royal Free Chapel, answerable to the Crown, not the Bishops, and Edward III was one monarch who was responsible for Charters to the Dean and indirectly for much of the rebuilding in the 14th century, commemorated by his crowned bearded head being carved in the stonework above the nave arches.

Regular Sunday and weekday services are held in St Peter's, and the church is open from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays.

The Visitor Centre is well worth seeing to understand more of the story of Wolverhampton and its parish church.



One of the impressive arches that support St Peter's



A picture taken from the gallery at the west end which was built for the boys of Wolverhampton Grammar School

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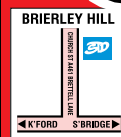
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NEWS

Closure of 'poor relation' ticket office is criticised

Hero Ben starts fun day



Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson starts the walk with stepfather Andrew Derrnie, left, and principal Amanda Jones, right

INSPIRATIONAL soldier Lance Bombardier Ben Parkinson, who was injured in an Afghanistan bomb blast, delighted well-wishers by opening a Midland charity day.

The paratrooper was guest of honour at Sunfield Children's Home, Clent, near Stourbridge, for its sponsored charity walk and fun day.

The 28-year-old suffered horrific injuries six years ago including brain and spine damage.

But he stunned the crowds by managing a few steps on his artificial legs to signal the start of the walk recently.

Staff had contacted L/Bdr Parkinson through a family friend who volunteers at the residential centre and school which helps children with complex learning difficulties including autism. His stepfather Andrew Derrnie, 53, joined Ben for the day and said his charity work was close to his heart.

THE closure of the ticket office at Lye railway station has been criticised by councillors who say passengers will suffer as a result of the move.

The office is the only one in the Black Country to be axed under plans announced by the Department for Transport. Ward councillor Mohammed Hanif said he was "very concerned".

He said he feared it would "make life difficult for residents". Councillor Hanif added: "The Government is encouraging people to use public transport more, so I don't think ticket offices like this one should be closed."

"I can't see how closing this ticket office will have any wider benefits, and it will have an impact on the people of Lye. It is a well-used station and I have often been amazed at the number of people you see coming and going from there."

Fellow ward councillor Pete Lowe said: "I think it's another example of Lye being treated as the poor relation when it comes to transport services. We should be looking at how we can take the pressure off the Stourbridge stations but this is a backwards step."

Other ticket offices will be closed at Witton, Birmingham; Wythall, Worcestershire; and Cheddington, Buckinghamshire.

But offices at five stations earmarked for closure by London Midland - including Bescot Stadium - have been spared, although they will operate at reduced hours.

Officials said there would be an extra 29 ticket vending machines at stations which do not currently have them. Extra shelters will be placed on platforms, and there will be more boarding ramps for wheelchairs.

Show date for koi group

THE Birmingham and West Midlands Koi Society will hold a show on October 6 and 7 at Highdown Nurseries, Ismere, Stourbridge.

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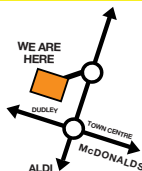
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NEWS

Music studio set to bring 12 jobs

A LIVE music venue and recording studio will open in Stourbridge next month bringing 12 part and full-time jobs. Moochers Jailhouse has been created at the former Conservative Club building, in New Road. Work to convert the site is entering its final phase.

The site will feature professional recording facilities which can be used by bands and a live music area for groups. Bosses said work on the interior was nearly finished.

Improvements to the exterior are also due to begin with scaffolding now up around the building and work to start shortly. Owners of the venue said they were confident everything would be ready in time for the October 19 opening. People still have time to apply for positions at the venue. They are asked to log on to www.moochersjailhouse.com and post their CVs. Owners say the venue will open with a party night with performances by live bands. They are also in talks with schools and colleges about students using the venue for lessons.

Olympic trainer Bob sets up academy



Team GB Boxing Coach Bob Dillon with son and Head Junior Coach Kevin, left, and boxer Ashley Nixon and one of the boxing gloves signed by the Team GB boxers

A DUDLEY boxing coach who was part of Britain's Olympic medal-winning team has set up a new academy at a local college to promote the sport to youngsters.

Trainer Bob Dillon, aged 55, from the Lions Boxing Club, Brierley Hill has been involved with the Olympic team for years and played a big part in past successes including champion Amir Kahn.

Mr Dillon, with the help of local coaches, has set up a new academy at Stourbridge College to promote the sport. He said: "We are a great country but we need to be pushing the official side of boxing as well, British amateur boxing is only going to get better and better."

He said: "I was so proud to be British at this year's Olympics, I felt ten feet tall and the support of the normal man in the street was astonishing."

The seasoned trainer also praised the work of head coach Robert McCracken who he says was the prime reason for the team's success. "We expected everything we got at the Olympics but we also had our share of good and bad luck, the way the athletes performed was amazing."

Mr Dillon's involvement in boxing started when he was 11 and joined Kinvor Boxing Club.

After an 18-year career as an amateur boxer winning tournaments and earning selection for the England Youth team. He decided to take up coaching full time at Warley Boxing Club before moving on to the Lions club in Bull Street.

He has since helped schools create boxing clubs to encourage the sport at a younger age and get more girls in. Mr Dillon, said: "Girls used to feel the sport was a bit of a freak show but now a lot more girls want to become involved."

The Lions Boxing Club will be staging an auction on October 4 where one of the lots will be two gloves signed by team GB. Cash raised will buy equipment for the gym.

£8,000 digger stolen from side of the road

A DIGGER worth more than £8,000 has been stolen from a roadside in the Midlands.

It is believed the yellow Volvo EC15DXT digger was loaded on to a lorry as it had been chained to a dumper truck and had its battery removed.

It was last seen by the owners on the corner of Littlewoods and Evesham Road, Crabbs Cross, Redditch. Pc Safdar Ali from Redditch said: "A witness thinks they remember seeing someone interfering with the digger at so we think this could be when it was taken."

Witnesses or anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of the digger should contact Pc Ali on the non-emergency number 101, quoting incident 37-N-100912, or ring the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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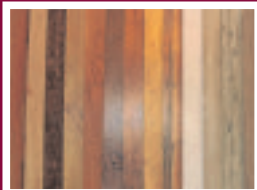
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CLUB NEWS

It's a hive
of activity
at bee talk

TRYSULL & SEISDON WI

THERE was no meeting in August but some members met up for a walk followed by lunch at the Boycott Arms.

The weather was kind and the sun shone as the ladies rambled from the pub through Claverley and back again. The club also provided cream teas at the Elms when it opened the gardens as part of the National Garden Scheme.

September's speaker was Phil Healey, the Honey Man. Phil used to teach rural sciences at Highfields School and he became interested in bees about 30 years ago.

He looks after 50 colonies of bees and also set up a bee colony in a school in Gambia. The group was shown how a hive is constructed. The bees can make their own wax, which is formed in a series of hexagons.

The queen bee stays at the bottom of the hive where she lays 2,000 eggs a day for three months. The worker bees are the females. They collect pollen, nectar, water and a type of glue, which they take back to the hive. The honey comes from the nectar.

To round off the evening Phil had brought some jars of home-made honey to sell. Mary Farquharson won the unusual jug competition.

The next meeting is on October 11 at Trysull Village Hall at 7.30pm. The competition is a war memento and Roger Halewood will talk about the National Memorial Arboretum.

Warden's view of unique common

WOMBOURNE WI

SPEAKER for September was Jeff Sim, the Highgate Common Community Warden.

This trust began working on the common in 2009 relying on subscriptions and lottery money to fund their work.

After giving a brief resume of the trust's aims, Jeff described the common and how unique it is. Insects are the hub of the common and are the basis of the food chain for all the creatures who live there.

Jeff and his team, including volunteers, meet every Tuesday to clear bramble, open up areas to allow heather and such like to grow, cut down unwanted trees and try to rid the common of Himalayan Balsam before it seeds.

With lottery grants, new toilets, car parking, signs, office space and lecture room have been added, while paths have been flattened for easier wheelchair and push-chair access.

Jeff is very dedicated to and enthusiastic about, his work. His superb talk, with slides, was very much appreciated.



Guest speaker - Highgate Common warden Jeff Sim

Group told of love for Nepal

LONGDON WI

MEMBERS may have been initially puzzled why the speaker, Margaret Cross, requested two large tables prior to her talk. It soon became clear when masses of multi-coloured fabrics were displayed.

Margaret had come to give some insight into her fascination and love of Nepal - a country she had become introduced to when her

husband, an Army officer, had been posted there.

She gave some interesting accounts of her experiences and then proceeded to show everyone all the various fabric lengths, which were in fact saris. Several members were very pleased to learn the process of fixing the cloth into place and with

much patience and some amusement. All were eventually attired in a sari.

It was most interesting to hear about Nepalese traditions and symbols.

This was a good start to the autumn season when events include a quiz night at St James' school hall on October 5. The club hosts the Rose and Shamrock group meeting on October 17.

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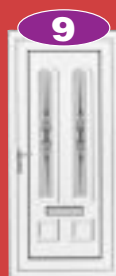
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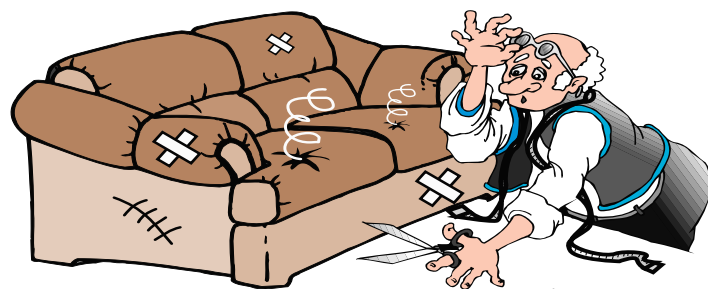
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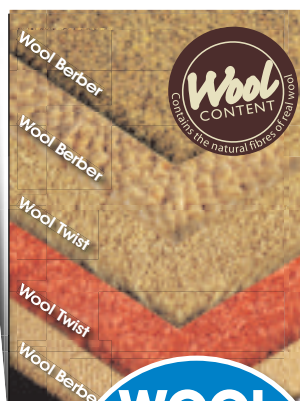
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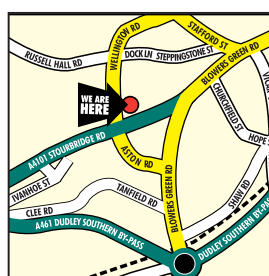
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NEWS

Explore flexible new way to view the E&S website

THE Express & Star website has never been easier to read, thanks to state-of-the-art technology that allows it to automatically adapt between a desktop computer, tablet and mobile phone.

Publisher the Midland News Association believes it is the first UK news company to introduce a system that resizes the layout according to the size of each user's screen.

That means that you will be able to navigate the site at ease, whether you are at home in front of the computer or using your smart phone on the bus.

With one of the fastest growing online regional audiences, the MNA has introduced the new flexible technology to help users and also to increase response rates for advertisers.

Rather than creating apps for iPad or iPhone, the websites are published using a single layout, which automatically changes according to the device.

Swipe

The move means that instead of booking individual adverts for each platform, advertisers can take out a single campaign to appear on all devices.

The sites also feature enhanced features including swipe functionality for pictures galleries, increased image sizes and improved navigation.

The Express & Star site went live yesterday after the successful launch of the responsive website for sister title the Shropshire Star last month.

Managing director Phil Inman said: "We believe we are the first publisher in the UK to launch a website that responds to the way that the user is accessing it, reinforcing our desire to be customer driven. The MNA's audience



Three devices, one website – how E&S coverage adapts to your screen

on mobile devices and tablets is growing so we wanted to ensure that users got the same excellent experience, matching that of desktop visitors.

"The new website will mean we can give digital advertisers the best possible response across all platforms."

Editor Adrian Faber said the new website would ensure Express & Star readers got the best possible service across print and online.

Reflects

He added: "The launch of the new website is just the latest chapter in the Express & Star's history of innovation."

"Our editorial team works hard to produce the best content in the regional press for readers, whether they read the paper, our website or the successful page turning apps."

The launch is the culmination of nine

months of work by the in-house MNA Digital team, led by digital development manager Mark Cadman.

It also reflects a big increase in the number of readers accessing the Express & Star using their mobile.

The paper's mobile audience has doubled in the last year, with almost a third of visits now coming via handheld devices.

Figures show the MNA's online network continues to be one of the fastest growing in the UK, with monthly unique users to the company's websites during January to June 2012 up 33.8 per cent year on year.

Expressandstar.com performed strongly with a 33.5 per cent rise in average monthly uniques to 913,334.

All the Chronicle editions can be viewed through the website

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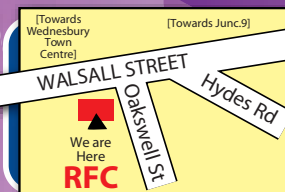
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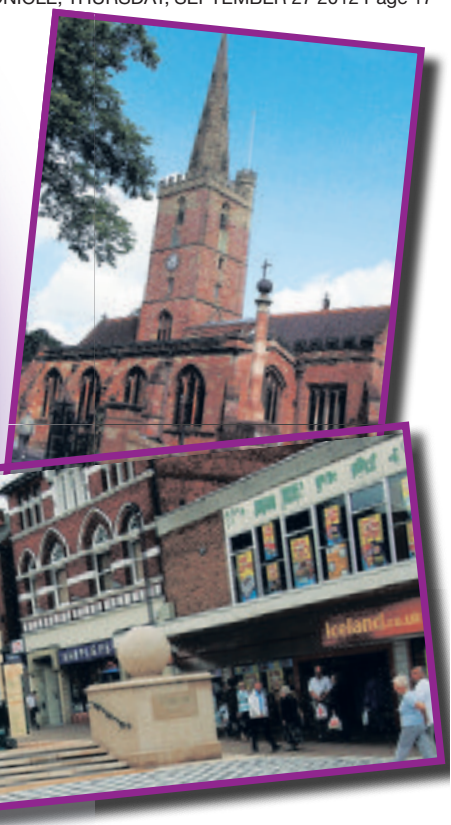
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WHO'S WHO



In & Around Halesowen

30 years in business for Cradley Heath Bookkeeper

Grants Bookkeeping services are celebrating 30 years in Business this year.

Grant, who himself will be 50 years old this December set up his bookkeeping services back in 1982 when he left Halesowen College after studying hard on a business studies course.

Born with Spina Bifida, Grant has never looked back since starting up his business with the help of his parents and has not missed a day's work in over 30 years.

Living in Cradley Heath all his life he has helped well over 300 different local companies with their bookkeeping and has

found himself helping businesses all across the West Midlands.

His client range has covered all aspects of business from a monastery to an adult shop. He has found himself in some funny situations over the years.

Tee-pee

Grant said "I once went out on a home visit for a landscape gardener, when I arrived the guy was dressed in a full American Indian outfit and his flat was kitted out like the inside of a tee-pee".

He said he would also like to thank everyone he has been in business with and to all the people he has come into contact with in the last 30 years.

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Today the business is thriving, as well as the flower arrangements for all those happy occasions; they also provide flowers for bereavement and funerals. "It is important to be there for the good times and the bad," says Sarah, "It

is often the last thing you can do for someone you care about and getting it absolutely right is essential".

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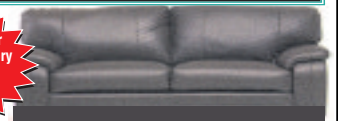
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With 44 years' service each in the industry, these two ladies had a clear vision of what they wanted to provide and a style in which they wanted to do it. Today Katrina & Sue not only offer the usual hair treatments but also a range of options such as Waxing, Electrolysis, Dermalogica facials, hot stone therapy and even non-surgical ultrasonic liposuction. This all takes place in what was previously a terraced house – a positive Dr Who's Tardis of a building that has been carefully refurbished over the years to provide a leading edge salon that offers up to date treatments for all ages.

On the subject of the wide age range that the salon caters for, Katrina said "We've covered all the era's,



from the "Bob" in the sixties, the "Purdey" from the seventies all the way to present day styles." "Each of our stylists appeals to a different age group – we cover anything from teenage all the way through to the 70+ age group – so there isn't anything that we can't do."

By extending the range of treatments and widening the appeal of the age range Katrina & Sue are hoping to take on even more local people. "The more local business we win will translate to more jobs in the salon" commented Sue. "We recently had a trainee called Natalie serve some work

experience time with us. Ideally we would have taken her on but we need to increase the sales a little more before we can take on additional staff."

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WINDSOR Business Centre is located at Trinity Point in Halesowen just a few minutes walk from Windsor High School and Sixth Form and delivers Sixth Form Business Studies and Economics teaching alongside a fully operational Conference Centre.

Innovatively designed by architects, it includes office space, a directors room and wifi throughout. The business centre aims to develop enterprise through experience alongside key employability skills in our students, whilst delivering real value

within the business community, including the creation of jobs. Students take on business studies and economics in a business environment where they have access to mentors and role models from local businesses

European

Working alongside them are our many partners, including established links to business, universities and European links that ensure the development of enterprise and a range of entrepreneurial skills and experiences.

A further bonus is the presence of a nationwide business that has separate office space in the

centre and provides specific business support and assistance to all of our students during their study. Students will benefit from studying in a vibrant and professional atmosphere and working alongside business professionals and embodies our ideal of teaching; "business studies and economics alongside real businesses".

One local business MD, said: "I would never have believed a school could have delivered such a fantastic Business environment."

"It really makes a difference studying Economics in such a Business-like environment," said an A Level Student.



Windsor Business Centre, Trinity Point, Halesowen



Windsor Sixth Form Open Evening

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Windsor Sixth Form

The staff, governors and students are pleased to invite you to visit Windsor Sixth Form on our annual open evening on Monday 15th October. We are a thriving and successful Sixth Form with over 250 students studying a range of A level subjects and BTECs. We had excellent results in Year 13 and 12 and are delighted that we continue with our track record of academic success.

The Sixth Form have their own building on site with a Common Room and TwentyTen cafe. The facilities are new and designed specifically for sixth form study and to reflect a University environment.

Windsor has an excellent specialist team of sixth form teachers and we pride ourselves on our small group sizes, personalised learning and excellent partnership with our students and parents.

Windsor Business Centre opened this year combining sixth form teaching with the co-location of business in the same place. The national HQ of a company work in close proximity to our students lending academic studies a genuine practical example of a real business at work. Add to this the Conference and Training Centre and you have a first class student learning facility.

University links are excellent. Local universities are frequent visitors but we also enjoy strong partnerships with universities further away and we have particularly good links with Oxford University. One of our students from Year 13 is now studying at Oxford.

Each year begins with a residential for all Year 12s. This engenders team spirit and enables all students to quickly get to know their peers and the staff. We also have a thriving extra-curricular programme in place which includes sport, volunteering, work experience and Duke of Edinburgh Gold.

We look forward to meeting you, showing you around and discussing the future opportunities available at Windsor.

**Keith Sorrell
Headteacher**



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What's On! Halesowen

Queen tribute to play at local pub

A BAND believed to be the only UK Queen tribute act fronted by a woman will be rocking at a Dudley pub.

She Will Rock You will be on at the Coseley Working Men's Club in Ivyhouse Lane on September 27.

The band is fronted by Stacy Green, whose stage name is Freda Mercury, and other members include musicians from the Fred Zeppelin tribute act, as well as bassist Mark Cresswell, drummer Steve Black and guitarist Elliot Gavin.

Entrance to the performance will cost £5 in advance or £7 on the door.

Singing classes from TV coach

A SINGING coach who auditioned performers for the BBC talent show The Voice will hold a gospel workshop.

Joshua Alamu will run a workshop at the Kingswinford School on October 6 from 1pm to 3.30pm. He has previously worked with artists including Take That, Westlife, Will Young and Daniel Bedingfield.

He sat on the panel at the original auditions of The Voice to pick the contestants.

To attend visit www.vocanics.com

Tribute to UB40

A UB40 tribute band will play at a pub near Halesowen on Saturday.

Labour of Love will play at the Knight's Quest pub, in Blackheath High Street. Admission on the night costs £4.

Lloyd Webber's Superstar is ready to rock the arena



Ex-Radio 1 Breakfast DJ Chris Moyles plays Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar at the NIA next week

City date for live Moyles mayhem

FRESH from playing King Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar, former BBC DJ Chris Moyles will be back in Birmingham in November – and this time he will be the star of the show.

Chris Moyles Live, his music and comedy show, will be calling at the city's O2 Academy on November 14.

A STAR-STUDDED cast is heading to Birmingham NIA as the first UK arena tour of Jesus Christ Superstar rolls into the city.

Andrew Lloyd-Webber's rock musical, which began as a hit double album and toured US stadiums 40 years ago, has been revamped for the 21st Century.

The creative team's credits include ceremonies at the London 2012 Olympics, Diamond Jubilee concert at Buckingham Palace and Les Miserables concerts.

Winner

Winner of ITV show Superstar Ben Forster will play Jesus. Former Radio 1 Breakfast Show host Chris Moyles will make his stage debut at King Herod, and ex-Spice Girl Melanie C is Mary Magdalene. Aussie comic and musician Tim Minchin will play Judas. The ensemble will include Birmingham's Superstar contestant Tim Prottey-Jones.

Jesus Christ Superstar is at the NIA on Thursday and Friday, October 4 and 5.

Tickets cost £45 to £65 plus fees. Call 0844 338 8000.



Mickey and Minnie Mouse are ready to embark on a magical journey when Disney On Ice presents Passport to Adventure at Birmingham NIA from October 24

Win a family ticket to new Disney show

YOU'RE invited to join Mickey and Minnie Mouse on holiday when they embark on a magical adventure at Birmingham NIA.

Disney On Ice presents Passport to Adventure at the arena from October 24 to November 4 and we are giving you the chance to win a family ticket (two adults and two children) for opening night of this spectacular show.

Mickey and Minnie will visit the worlds of The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Peter Pan and say 'aloha' to Lilo & Stitch in Hawaii. Find out more at the www.thenia.com website.

For your chance to win, answer this question: What's the Hawaiian word for hello?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Disney On Ice Competition, Chronicle Series (Editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date Thursday, October 4. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

Change of venue for song concert

SINGERS will be bringing the traditions of music hall to a Halesowen stage next week.

Denith and Price will break off their tour of Worcestershire Women's Institutes to provide the entertainment for the St Peter's Church event on Friday October 5.

Organisers have switched the event to The Laurels club, Windmill Hill, Cradley.

It starts at 7pm with tickets £7 for adults and £3.50 for children including food. Call Rev Katryn Leclézio on 0121 550 1158 for details.

Fundraising ball to honour Melanie

STAFF at Birmingham's City Hospital are holding a fundraising ball in memory of their colleague who died of breast cancer.

Melaine Gardner who was a clerical officer in Birmingham Treatment Centre was a dedicated fundraiser for Breast Cancer Care. The Glamour Puss Ball is on Friday October 5 from 7pm to 12.30am at The Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill. Call 0121 507 5209 or email via Alison.ecclleshall@nhs.net

Ukulele band gig

HALESOWEN Ukulele Group Strummers will be playing their latest gig in the town this Sunday. The concert starts at 7.30pm at Halesowen Athletic and Cycling Club's clubhouse, in Manor Way Halesowen.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 29.09.12

CHOICE



David Tennant

Comedy World Cup
Channel 4, 8pm

In case you didn't know it, Barry Cryer is actually one of the UK's finest comedy writers, who penned material for showbiz legends including Dave Allen, Stanley Baxter, Tommy Cooper and Kenny Everett. He'll be one of the guest stars taking a place in this week's light-hearted quiz, fronted by David Tennant. Mick Miller, who first came to many peoples' attention 40 years ago as one of The Comedians, will also be taking part. Once more, team captains Johnny Vegas and Phill Jupitus will be doing their best to guide their side to victory.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News. Regional News. Weather. **5.40** A Question of Sport: 2012 Olympics Special. **6.20** All New Total Wipeout. **7.20** Doctor Who. New York's statues come to life, and with Rory in grave danger, the Doctor and Amy face a race against time to locate him – with a little help from an old friend. **8.05** The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. High-tension quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles, in which two brothers are hoping to win enough to pay for one of them to have his dream stag party. **9.00** Casualty. A man meeting his girlfriend's daughter for the first time crosses paths with an old acquaintance, leading to disaster, while Fletch shows Lloyd a good time. **9.50** BBC News. Weather. **10.10** Match of the Day. Gabby Logan presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Arsenal v Chelsea at the Emirates Stadium and Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur at Old Trafford. National Lottery Update. **11.40** The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two. **12.50** Film: Point Blank. (1967) Crime thriller, starring Lee Marvin. **2.20** Weather. **2.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **11.00** Golf: The Ryder Cup. (R) **1.00** Film: The Swann. (1978) **3.30** Film: Triple Cross. (1965) **5.30** Wartime Farm. (R) **6.30** Flog It! Susan Oring and Mark Stacey uncover more items suitable for auction in Weymouth, Dorset. (R) **7.30** Dad's Army. A night at the cinema and a black-market toasted cheese sandwich make Mainwaring dream he is Napoleon, in an episode first broadcast in October 1972. (R) **8.00** Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs. Historian Pamela Cox explores how Britain's domestic servants lived and worked in the 19th and 20th centuries, and investigates their role in society. (R) **9.00** QI XL. Rob Brydon, Phill Jupitus, Cal Wilson and Alan Davies try to come up with interesting answers to Stephen Fry's questions about journeys, in an extended version of the quiz. **9.45** The Thick of It. Nicola boards a train to Bradford for a party event, accompanied by a TV news crew, giving Malcolm an opportunity to continue his plan to remove her as leader of the opposition. **10.15** The Clintons. How the Monica Lewinsky scandal shook America's confidence in Bill Clinton. Last in the series. **11.15** TOTP2: Bee Gees Special. The Bee Gees talk about and perform some of their favourite tracks. (R) **12.00** Golf: The Ryder Cup. **2.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The X Factor. (1980) **4.10** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007) **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.00** ITV News. Weather. **6.15** New You've Been Framed! **6.45** Fool Britannia. Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly. **7.15** Red or Black? Champion martial artists go head to head, men take on women in a stunt-diving challenge and the Overtones perform a medley. Game show, hosted by Ant and Dec. Continues after The X Factor. **8.00** The X Factor. Cheryl Cole, Ne-Yo, Tinie Tempah and Sharon Osbourne assist Gary, Nicole, Tulisa and Louis respectively in locations around the world as 24 acts vie for 12 places in the live shows. Continues tomorrow. **9.50** Red or Black? Including a shadow-boxing duel between James DeGale and Carl Froch. Last in the series. **10.35** The Jonathan Ross Show. With Jack Dee, Dynamo, Emma Watson and No Doubt. **11.35** ITV News. Weather. **11.50** Take Me Out. A scuba-diving instructor, a media salesman, a hair consultant and a fish merchant take part. (R) **1.00** The Story. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** British Formula Ford. **7.00** FM Superbike World Championship 2012. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.50** T4: Pink: Real Stories. **9.50** T4: iTunes Festival 2012: T4 Highlights. **10.25** T4: New Girl. **10.55** T4: Revenge. **11.50** T4: Suburgatory. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.15** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **6.25** Baggage. Two more singletons pick a partner to take on a romantic holiday, but must choose from contestants whose foibles include constant crying and an obsession with football. (R) **7.25** Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4Thought.tv. A Sufi Muslim compares English and Egyptian culture. **8.00** Comedy World Cup. Johnny Vegas, Josh Widdicombe and Mick Miller take on Phill Jupitus, Roisin Conaty and Barry Cryer as the comedy quiz tournament continues. David Tennant asks the questions. **9.00** The Million Pound Drop Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1million, but lose money for giving incorrect answers. **11.05** Film: Silver. (1993) Erotic thriller, starring Sharon Stone and William Baldwin. **1.10** Film: Omkara. (2006) Musical drama, starring Ajay Devgan. **3.45** Amelia and Michael. (R) **3.55** Hollywoods.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** How Do They Do It? (R) **11.55** Film: Battle of the Buge. (1965) **2.50** Film: Maverick. (1994) Comedy Western, starring Mel Gibson. **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15** Film: North Sea Hijack. (1979) **7.15** Film: The Wild Geese. (1978) British mercenaries hired to free a political prisoner from an African state are betrayed by their employers. Action adventure, starring Richard Burton and Richard Harris; 5 News Update. **9.50** CSI: Miami. The investigators head to a child's beauty pageant where one of the contestants' mothers has been found dead – but stumble across another horrific crime. **10.45** CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The team investigates the death of a schoolgirl whose body was found wrapped in a shower curtain. A classmate with a grudge claims he is guilty – but his sister also confesses. (R) **11.40** Forensic Files. Police use the latest scientific and forensic techniques to identify the killer of a convenience-store clerk whose half-naked body was found in woods almost 20 years previously. (R) **12.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **BBC Four** **7.00** Human Planet **8.00** Horizon: Seeing Stars **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.50** The Story of Light Entertainment **ITV2** **3.05** The X Factor **4.35** The Xtra Factor **5.40** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.55** Film: Uncle Buck (1989) **9.50** The Xtra Factor **10.50** Celebrity Juice **11.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **ITV3** **3.30** Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.50** Murder, She Wrote **6.50** Foyle's War **9.00** Vera. DCI Vera Stanhope investigates an 11-year-old murder case **11.00** Crime Connections **ITV4** **3.05** British Superbike Championship Highlights **4.05** Police, Camera, Action! **4.35** The Professionals **5.40** Film: Escape to Victory (1981) **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15** Film: GoodFellas (1990) **E4** **3.15** Revenge **4.15** Film: Grease (1978) Romantic musical, with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Film: Assault on Precinct 13 (2005) **11.10** The Inbetweeners **Film4** **3.30** Imagine That (2009) **5.35** The Golden Child (1986) **7.20** Hot Shots! (1991) Action movie spoof, starring Charlie Sheen. **9.00** (500) Days of Summer (2009) **10.50** The Hills Have Eyes (2006) Horror remake, starring Aaron Stanford.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 30.09.12

CHOICE



Philip Mould

Fake or Fortune?

BBC1, 7pm
Week after week this series has proved to be fascinating viewing, as presenter Fiona Bruce – with the assistance of expert Philip Mould – has laid bare some of the tricks of the forgers' trade by assessing supposedly valuable works of art from around the world. But this week the tables are turned, as art detective Philip puts one of his own finds under the microscope. He believes a painting he bought could be the work of 17th-century artist Anthony van Dyck. But to prove it, the piece will have to undergo a thorough examination.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.20** Cash in the Attic. (R) **2.05** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** The Indian Doctor. (R) **5.35** Planet Earth Live: An Elephant's Tale. **6.35** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.00** Fake or Fortune? Philip Mould tries to prove one of his own purchases is by Anthony van Dyck. It could be worth a small fortune, but the painting will have to undergo a thorough restoration first. **8.00** Countryfile. Steps to conserve eels and the rare lesser horseshoe bat in the Usk Valley and how a rise in the demand for coal is affecting parts of the countryside and the people who live there. **9.00** Andrew Marr's History of the World. The journalist tells the story of the earliest empires, which laid the foundations for the modern world, including the invention of the first alphabet and the birth of democracy. **10.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Aston Villa v West Bromwich Albion. **11.05** Golf: The Ryder Cup. Highlights of the third and final day from Medinah Country Club in Illinois. **1.05** Weatherview. **1.10** Sign Zone: Cairngorms – A Year in the Wild. (R) **2.10** Holly City. (R) **3.10** The Paradise. (R) **4.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **12.30** MotoGP 2.00 Golf: The Ryder Cup. (R) **4.00** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs. Tanya Arnold presents highlights of the qualifying semi-finals. **6.00** Great Barrier Reef. Monty Halls explores the extraordinary ecosystem. (R) **7.00** Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May try to build mobility scooters capable of tackling the British countryside's terrain. With actor Michael Fassbender. (R) **8.00** Vikings. Neil Oliver tells the story of how the age of the Vikings came to an end, exploring the lives of the first Danish kings and the spread of Christianity. Last in the series. (R) **9.00** Dragons' Den. A former chat-show host seeks funding to make a TV quiz programme – and tries to convince the Dragons her game could be a hit by getting them to play it. **10.00** Mock the Week. With Joe Wilkinson, Josh Widdicombe and Milton Jones. (R) **10.30** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With guest host Kathy Burke. (R) **11.00** Film: You Instead. (2011) Premiere. Two bickering rock stars from rival bands are forced to spend a music festival handcuffed to one another. Romantic comedy, starring Luke Treadaway and Natalia Tena. **12.20** Film: My Baby's Daddy. (2004) **1.40** BBC News. **3.55** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.30** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.50** The X Factor. (R) **2.40** William & Kate: The South Seas Tour. (R) **3.40** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **4.40** Downton Abbey. (R) **5.40** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin. (R) **6.10** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.25** ITV News; Weather. **6.40** The Chase Celebrity Special. Russell Watson, Rita Simons, Bill Oddie and Denise Welch try to win thousands of pounds for charity by outwitting one of the show's resident trivia experts. **7.40** The X Factor. The judges have to tell the remaining acts in their categories who has made it into the final 12, and who is heading home disappointed. **9.00** Downton Abbey. Edith's big day arrives. Mrs Hughes anxiously awaits her results, while Mary takes matters into her own hands to secure the estate's future – but the personal cost could be high. **10.05** ITV News; Weather. **10.20** Hillsborough. Jimmy McGovern's 1996 drama exploring how 96 spectators lost their lives at a 1989 FA Cup semi-final at Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield. Starring Christopher Eccleston. (R) **12.20** Premiership Rugby Union. **1.15** The Store. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.50** Motorsport UK. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** FIA GT1 Championship. **7.10** Ironman Triathlon. **7.35** Inside Endurance: The Brownlees. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.25** Food Unwrapped. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: 10 Things I Hate About You. (1999) Comedy, starring Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles. **4.50** 4thought.tv. **4.55** Deal or No Deal. **5.55** Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown. (2006) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Ray Romano. **7.40** Channel 4 News. **8.00** Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. The Grand Designs presenter continues his project by searching for ideas to transform the shell of his wooden cabin into a habitable home, including a floor, a window and a stove. **9.00** Big Fat Quiz of the 80s. Alan Carr, David Mitchell, Richard Ayoade, Sarah Millican, Kevin Bridges and Noel Fielding answer questions about the 2000s. Jimmy Carr hosts. Last in the series. **10.35** Film: The Brave One. (2007) A radio talk-show host descends into a spiral of violence after taking the law into her own hands to avenge her fiancé's murder. Thriller, starring Jodie Foster and Terrence Howard. **12.55** American Football Live. Philadelphia Eagles v New York Giants (Kick-off 1.20am). **4.45** Grudge Match. Remote-control car fanatics battle it out. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.50** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowercots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Play (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **12.25** Film: City Under the Sea. (1965) **2.05** Film: Vertical Limit. (2000) **4.25** Film: The Towering Inferno. (1974) **7.35** 5 News Weekend. **7.40** Film: Spider-Man 2. (2004) Personal troubles tempt Peter Parker into giving up fighting crime, but first he has to face a deadly new foe. Comic-book adventure, starring Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst. **10.00** Film: Gamer. (2009) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, with Gerard Butler and Michael C Hall. **11.55** Soho Blues. Police officers in London's West End raid a suspected fraudster's flat. (R) **12.50** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hansa's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Be Your Own Boss **8.00** Film: National Treasure: Book of Secrets (2007) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Cuckoo **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks **7.30** The Story of Light Entertainment **9.00** Footwood Mac – Don't Stop **10.00** Film: The Maid (2009) **11.30** Room at the Top
ITV2
3.40 The X Factor **5.30** The Xtra Factor **6.35** Film: Back to the Future (1985) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Girlfri3nds **11.45** Film: Eyes Wide Shut (1999)
ITV3
2.50 Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **5.00** Film: The Magnificent Two (1967) **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Film: Fierce Creatures (1997) **10.55** Cracker
ITV4
1.35 Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **4.10** Film: Spartacus (1960) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Keeper (2009) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal. **11.00** Film: The Howling (1981)
E4
3.10 Charlie's Angels **4.05** New Girl **4.35** Suburgatory **5.05** Revenge **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** New Girl
Film4
2.50 The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller remake, with James Stewart and Doris Day. **5.10** Meet Dave (2008) **6.55** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **9.00** Juno (2007) Comedy, starring Ellen Page. **10.50** 12 Rounds (2008)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Speed, Channel 5, 9pm

An LAPD cop discovers a psychopathic criminal has planted a bomb on a crowded bus, primed to go off if the vehicle drops below 50mph. He boards the vehicle and helps the hapless passenger who has been forced to take the wheel to keep a constant speed to avoid a disaster. Action thriller, starring Keanu Reeves. (1994)

TUESDAY

Outrageous Fortune, BBC1, 12.05am

A porn star and a drama student discover they have one thing in common – they are being two-timed by the same man. When their lover mysteriously disappears, they team up to find him, only to learn he is an agent of a foreign power and has implicated them in his espionage schemes. Comedy, starring Bette Midler, Shelley Long, Peter Coyote and Robert Prosky. (1987)

WEDNESDAY

Identity, Channel 5, 11pm

Ten strangers take shelter from a storm in a remote hotel, but start to suspect their being together at the same place and time is more than just a coincidence. Before long a mysterious figure begins to murder them off one by one – leaving the guests to work out which of them is the killer, or if someone else is in the hotel. Murder mystery, starring John Cusack. (2003)



Speed, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

McBride: Tune in for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An obnoxious radio DJ is killed and his co-presenter is accused of the crime. McBride takes on the case, but becomes convinced of the defendant's innocence – especially as the murder weapon is nowhere to be found. Mystery, starring John Larroquette. (2005)

FRIDAY

Into the Blue, Channel 5, 10pm

Divers looking for sunken treasure in the Bahamas discover the submerged wreckage of a plane with a stash of cocaine hidden inside it. Eager to make the most of the opportunity, they devise a plan to sell the drugs – but their scheme attracts the attention of a ruthless narcotics dealer and an unscrupulous rival treasure hunter. Thriller, starring Paul Walker. (2005)

American Gangster, ITV1, 10.35pm

The story of 1970s drug kingpin Frank Lucas, whose methods of smuggling heroin into the US made him one of the leading figures in the New York underworld. A detective is assigned to bring Lucas's empire down, but his investigation is undermined by police corruption. Fact-based crime drama, starring Denzel Washington, Russell Crowe, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Josh Brolin. (2007)

Pick of the Week

An intelligent new entry in the espionage genre

Melissa George has certainly come a long way from the picturesque sand dunes of Summer Bay and Alf Stewart's kindly lectures.

The Amityville Horror, Derailed and a decent stint in the always-loved Friends provided starring roles for her; but when can the actress finally breathe a sigh of relief and be in no doubt that she's really hit the big time? When her talents secure her the lead role in a gritty BBC espionage drama like Hunted (Thursday BBC1, 9pm), that's when – and so we're about to see a whole lot more of this brilliantly talented actress.

Here, she crops up as Sam Hunter, an operative for the elite private intelligence and security firm Byzantium. She's had something of a hard life; while assigned to a mission in Tangier, someone tried to kill her, and not knowing where to turn, she retreated to a remote location to retreat.

A year down the line, and she's fighting fit and ready to return to

work, but she's not greeted with cards and flowers; suspicion and mistrust more like – where has she been all this time? That's the question on the lips of her former secret lover Aidan Marsh.

Her bosses are equally as wary of her, but they have more important matters to attend to; they need Sam to infiltrate a family headed by millionaire Jack Turner, a man with a criminal past and who has a vested interest in Byzantium's secret client.

The premise alone gives a firm nod in the direction of fellow BBC spy drama, Spooks, so for those of you who have been needing a fix since that came off air some time ago, fill your boots.

George recently spoke to Cinemax about her latest portrayal, admitting: "You don't want to cross Sam. She is still the firm's best operative, but since the attempt on her life, any trust she had for the firm and her co-workers is gone. That is why she is so determined to go back to work and face her

team – she really believes that one of them is behind it. She is a very complicated person and not easy to get to know."

But it would seem that in her new mission, as she integrates with the family she's been assigned to, it will be hard not to become emotionally embroiled in their story.

"When the trauma of her past resurfaces, it sends her down a certain path. In many ways, she identifies with Eddie, the child she is tutoring in her mission. Because of their similar experiences, he has a huge effect on her that she wasn't anticipating. She struggles with caring too much, which can be a liability in her business."

George is in great company in this, another of the Beeb's surge of fantastic dramas to take us through dark and dreary nights of the looming winter.

She stars alongside Adam Rayner (Mistresses), Stephen Dillane (Game of Thrones) and Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbale (Lost).



Melissa George stars in the new espionage thriller series.

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Hotel GB Channel 4, 9pm

Where on earth would you find the ever-helpful Dr Christian Jessen and foul-mouthed foodie Gordon Ramsay underneath the same roof at the same time? In Hotel GB of course, as Channel 4 brings together some of its well-loved personalities, throws them into a hotel to run it, and sees how they fare. The broadcaster always does these novel-sounding ideas so well, but this time, it's for a good cause. For one week, many familiar faces will take over a hotel and staff it with unemployed people who are desperate for a break; the challenge being that the hotel must make as much money for unemployment charities as possible. Keep an eye out for Gok Wan, Phil Spencer and Katie Piper.

Monroe

ITV1, 9pm

James Nesbitt's hit drama about a charismatic brain surgeon obviously impressed millions when it debuted last year, so before you could say 'medulla oblongata', TV bosses had given the green light to a more ambitious second, run. Series two opens 18 months after series one, and there are quite a few changes at St Matthew's hospital. While Monroe (Nesbitt) has moved into his new bachelor pad, Shepherd (Tom Riley) and Bremner (Sarah Parish) are proud parents to baby Louis. Alistair Gillespie (Neil Pearson), the hospital's new Head of Clinical Services, soon makes his presence felt with a few controversial decisions, and it looks like co-worker Lizzie

Clapham (Tracy-Ann Oberman) will also set the cat among the pigeons.

TUESDAY

UEFA Champions League Live ITV1, 7.30pm

Manchester United continue their quest to reach the knockout stages of the Champions League this evening as they travel to Romania to face CFR Cluj at the Dr Constantin Radulescu Stadium for their second Group H encounter. The hosts are the domestic champions and produced one of the shock results of matchday one with a 2-0 victory away to Portuguese side SC Braga, leaving United with a potentially tricky assignment as they look to build on their 1-0 win against Galatasaray at Old Trafford on the same evening. Michael Carrick was on target for the Red Devils early in that match, which was also notable for a Nani penalty miss and the return to first-team action of midfielder Darren Fletcher.

WEDNESDAY

Dallas

Channel 5, 9pm

There's more sibling rivalry between the Ewing pensioners as a furious Bobby discovers he has been conned and JR holds the deeds to Southfork. However, Ann comes up with a way to stop his plan, though it could prove costly. Meanwhile, Tommy and Rebecca attempt to rescue their scheme; Elena and John Ross attempt to

reach an understanding, and Christopher considers playing dirty to overcome his enemies. Aside from series regulars Larry Hagman and Patrick Duffy, the cast includes Josh Henderson, Jesse Metcalfe, Jordana Brewster and 24/ Transformers veteran Glenn Morshower.

THURSDAY Making Faces Channel 5, 9pm

The men and women of the Maxillofacial Prosthetic Department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham are nothing short of miracle-workers; ask any of their patients – they will tell you the same. They are simply a godsend to people who require a facial prosthetic due to illness, accident or birth defect, and this documentary series has been rather sobering for me mere viewers. Among this week's crop of inspirational people, as cameras continue to follow their stories and explain why they're visiting the surgeons in the first place, we meet Peter, who's dealing with the loss of his nose to cancer.



Monroe, Monday, ITV1, 9pm

FRIDAY
Strictly Come Dancing
BBC1, 9pm
On Saturday,

September 15, viewers were treated to a special premiere edition of this year's Strictly Come Dancing. It introduced us to the competitors and their professional dance partners. Usually such things are predictable, but the sight of tiny Kristina getting Colin Salmon was a bit of a shock – their dances 'in hold' will probably see her staring at his belly button instead of over his shoulder. The competition proper begins this evening, with half of the group of celebrities celebrities taking to the dance floor for the first time; the remainder make their debuts on Saturday. Everyone will be hoping to impress the judges as well as the viewers; the results of both sets of votes will be announced next week, when the first celeb will be given the boot.

Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs BBC2, 9pm

Learning about those who worked 'downstairs' a century ago always made for an interesting topic in history lessons; if you were lucky, you got to play dress-up and really get into character. Years down the line, seeing how 19th and 20th century domestic servants lived still makes for a fascinating subject (note the popularity of Downton Abbey) – something with which Pamela Cox obviously concurs. This week, she discovers what happened when servants directly challenged their masters and mistresses. The programme tells of wayward laundry maids, butlers selling their stories to the press and Suffragette maids. The whole notion of service hit trouble though when young workers were lured into factories and shops...

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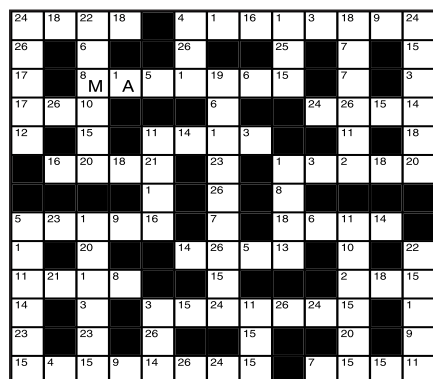
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Brain Gym

No.188

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Z	J	X	M	I	O	T	Y	F	B	A	G	W
L	K	R	N	C	S	U	H	Q	P	E	V	D

1	A	14
2		15
3		16
4		17
5		18
6		19
7		20
8	M	21
9		22
10		23
11		24
12		25
13		26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

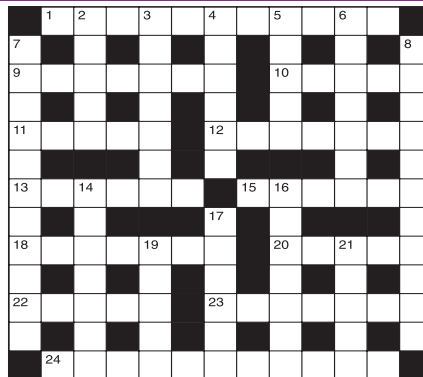
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Evidently doesn't suffer in silence! (5,2,4)
9. Shrub here in the cellar but usually outdoors (7)
10. One way to score (5)
11. One who pays his respects in a lady's boudoir? (5)
12. Composed and ready for inspection (5,2)
13. A stone in the way perhaps (6)
15. End of the act (6)
18. It may accompany a throbbing drum (7)
20. Coach - or coaches (5)
22. Talk or eat perhaps (5)
23. They may be tied up with postal deliveries (7)
24. It throws light on what has been written (7,4)

Down

2. Space is needed for this room (5)
3. After a number on the side (7)
4. Selected to play, but not on the wing? (6)
5. Animal comes from the swamp and accepts food (5)
6. Concentrated in a nervous way (7)
7. He probably doesn't engage in serious pursuits (3,8)
8. Rows in forms that will please the eye (11)
14. Line of defence that makes lawyers angry? (7)
16. Put into bonds on account of great interest? (7)
17. Continue being eager to hold work up (4,2)
19. A solemn profession (5)
21. A light abreast of the ship (5)



Quick Clues:

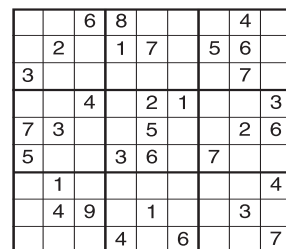
Across

1. Calamity (11)
9. Bankruptcy (7)
10. Game of chance (5)
11. To correct (5)
12. Trenches (7)
13. Ridiculous (6)
15. Talented (6)
18. Vacation (7)
20. Of the sun (5)
22. Confine (5)
23. Passage (7)
24. News (11)

Down

2. Nimble (5)
3. Apart (7)
4. Tramples (6)
5. Young bird (5)
6. Axe (7)
7. A little time later (5,1,5)
8. Thoughtful (11)
14. Wise man (7)
16. Moment (7)
17. Method (6)
19. The same (5)
21. Lariat (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	8	6	5	2	4	9	7	3
5	2	4	9	3	7	6	1	8
3	9	7	1	6	8	2	4	5
8	3	5	7	9	6	4	2	1
6	7	2	4	8	1	3	5	9
9	4	1	2	3	7	8	6	5
2	5	6	4	9	1	3	7	8
4	1	9	3	7	5	8	6	2
7	6	3	8	1	2	5	9	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Hopeless; 5 Uses; 9 Idea; 10 Mahogany; 11 Snips; 12 Eclipse; 13 Sleeping pills; 18 Astonish; 19 Guys; 20 Siamese; 21 Lally; 22 Ring; 23 Advances. Down: 2 Ordinal; 3 Example; 4 Shake one's head; 6 Scalpel; 7 Shyness; 8 Roll up; 13 Spenser; 14 Entrain; 15 Penned; 16 Ingrain; 17 Layette. QUICK - Across: 1 Complete; 5 Acts; 9 Mazer; 10 Alienate; 11 Civil; 12 Abusive; 13 Intentionally; 18 Together; 19 Jowl; 20 Outcome; 21 Queer; 22 Tune; 23 Astonish. Down: 2 Oration; 3 Precise; 4 Talkativeness; 6 Cranial; 7 Scenery; 8 Return; 13 Introit; 14 Tighen; 15 Notion; 16 Adjoin; 17 Lawless.

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A well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac on the borders of Cradley Heath within a close proximity to local schools and public transport links. Accommodation includes: Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Cavity Wall Insulation, Front and Rear Gardens, Garage.

£142,500



ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

An unfurnished modern detached house, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, ALBERT ROAD

An immaculately presented detached house within minutes of Halesowen, in a well sought after location, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking to the Front, Detached Garage at Rear, Front and Rear Gardens. A Property Not To Be Missed.

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, THE INFIELD

An unfurnished modern 3 bed semi detached family home, located on a new build development, benefiting from: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Comprising of: Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Guest WC, 3 Bedrooms, One with En-Suite, Family Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden and Allocated Parking.

£650 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, WHEELER STREET

A traditional three bedroom mid terraced property in a popular residential area and comprising of: Front Reception Room with Original Marble Fireplace, Back Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Two Large Bedrooms and One Large Single, Lovely Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WOODRIDGE ROAD

Sited in a desirable area of Halesowen, is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom with Shower on Taps, Garage and Driveway Parking, Rear Garden.

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, PORTSDOWN ROAD

A well presented three bedroom semi detached house in sought after area. The property is offered unfurnished and comprises of: Hall, Guest WC, Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with Shower, Low Maintenance Rear Garden driveway, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

£575 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, WRIGHTS LANE

A short distance from Old Hill shops and local train station is this well presented unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Diner Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking.

£575 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, DUKE STREET

A two bedroom refurbished mid terraced property, within walking distance to local buses and Blackheath Town Centre, comprising of: 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen/Utility Room, Private Rear Garden, 2 Double Bedrooms, Shower Room, Rear Access for Parking, A Must See Property!

£550 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, WALLOWS ROAD

An unfurnished semi-detached house, briefly comprising of: Three Good Size Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Large Dining Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Large Rear Gardens, On Road Parking.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HIGHLAND HOUSE

Located just off Graham Road, is this very large, fully refurbished ground floor Flat, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Garage, Communal Gardens, Unfurnished.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEECHER ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs Bathroom, Laundry Room, En-Suite Shower Room to Master Bedroom, Driveway Parking, Front and rear gardens. A Value for Money Property.

£525 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, MINCING LANE

A newly refurbished terraced house, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Driveway Parking for 2 Cars, Rear Garden, Unfurnished.

£525 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Located close to Stourbridge Town Centre, is this unfurnished mid terraced house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Cosy Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden, Parking Space to Front.

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NORWOOD AVENUE

An Unfurnished semi detached house in this popular residential area comprising of: Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Private Rear Garden. On Street Parking. Available End of September.

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, BANNERS STREET

A mid terrace property which has been refurbished, comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, White Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Garden with Decking Area, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

An unfurnished top floor apartment, close to local shops, train station, and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Electronic Gates leading to Secure Parking Area, Internal Inspection Recommended.

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

Sited on a very popular road, and a short walk from local shops and bus links, is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Cosy Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Low Maintenance Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking.

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Sited in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

£450 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area for Visitors, Communal gardens.

£425 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Located on the popular development of the Homer Hill Estate, is this spacious first floor apartment which has been redecorated and new carpets fitted, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

£350 PCM

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Number 33 Priory Road is on the market in Dudley with local estate agent Billingham Taylor

BILLINGHAM Taylor Estate Agents is delighted to offer for sale this large detached property in Dudley.

Number 33 Priory Road is described by the agent as a stunning, spacious, detached family home, conveniently located within walking distance of the town with views over Priory Park to the front and large

gardens to the rear. The property has been extensively and stylishly refurbished to a high standard with the benefit of no upward chain and is ready to be lived in.

The extensive accommodation comprises a porch, central hallway, through lounge/dining room, conservatory, a fabulous dining kitchen, utility room, shower room, a galleried landing, three double bedrooms, a

fourth bedroom, a luxury house bathroom with a twin ended bath and double-winged basin and a separate WC.

"This is truly a fabulous family home not to be missed," said a representative for the agent.

The property is on the market for offers based on £279,000. Call 01384 234900.

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Cavalier Drive, Halesowen



£300,000

Four bedroom detached house situated on a corner plot and consists of a lounge, dining room, study, kitchen/breakfast room, utility and WC. To the first floor is a master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom.

Burmese Way, Rowley Regis



£280,000

This four bedroom property comprises modern lounge, conservatory, study, WC, re-fitted kitchen/diner, en-suite and re-fitted bathroom. Externally is a rear garden, generous driveway parking and detached double garage.

Gower Road, Halesowen



£274,950

An extended traditional four bedroom detached house in an established residential area, benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. The property offers accommodation comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, guest cloakroom, study, en-suite and family bathroom.

Howley Grange Road, Halesowen



£225,000

An extended traditional three bedroom semi detached house. The property comprises lounge, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, utility, downstairs WC, first floor bathroom, garage, driveway, established rear garden, central heating and double glazing (both where specified). Available with no upward chain and open to offers.

Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis



£230,000

A modern detached house comprising lounge, second reception room (converted garage), kitchen/diner and WC. The first floor accommodation has four bedrooms (en-suite to master) and family bathroom. Externally is a drive and rear garden.

Arkle Croft, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £190,000

Modern detached family home with accommodation comprising entrance hallway, guest WC, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, four bedrooms, master en-suite and bathroom. The outside offers a garage, driveway to fore and front and rear gardens.

Colley Lane, Halesowen



£160,000

Detached house comprising three bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, WC and family bathroom. Externally is a rear garden, drive and garage.

Ross, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £160,000

A modern detached bungalow comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. Externally are front and rear gardens, drive and garage.

Buckingham Road, Rowley Regis



£150,000

Four bedroom detached property. The property comprises entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, WC, en-suite to main and family bathroom. Externally is a driveway, garage and front and rear gardens. Also benefits from central heating and double glazing (both where specified).

Woolpack Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £140,000

Detached house comprising lounge, kitchen breakfast room, conservatory, three bedrooms and shower room. Externally is a rear garden, garage and drive.

Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £130,000

NEW PRICE

Traditional property which comprises lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms and family bathroom. Externally is a rear garden and block paved drive.

Causeway, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £100,000

NEW

Three bedroom property comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs WC and family bathroom. Externally is a drive and front and rear gardens.

Grange Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £80,000

Three bedroom semi detached property. The accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, veranda and downstairs bathroom. Externally is a rear garden and off road parking. Benefits from double glazing and central heating (both where specified).



MOToring NEWS AND REVIEWS

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MOToring

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

SUVs have a lot going for them

DON'T be so hard on the big SUV. There may be a few individuals who buy one because they think it makes them look important, or because it is the favoured transport of some Premiership footballers, but ignore them.

The reality is that a full-size SUV is possibly the most practical car that money can buy.

They're big, comfortable, versatile and luxurious. It's the kind of purchase you make and spend every single day being pleased with yourself for. The reality is though that there are only a handful that truly qualify as large - seven seats as standard is a must in other words. This is why the Mercedes-Benz GL-Class has to be on your short-list.

First introduced to the UK back in 2008, a heavily revised version has been announced with sales in this country planned for early next year. If you were familiar with the old car then you should spot the new GL across a crowded car park, but the changes are significant, and for the better. It has a much cleaner look all round, with smoothed-out bumpers, the family face and sharper creases down the sides. There's no hiding the fact this is a

By Matt Joy

big car but you don't wander up to it with a sense of fear: smart design means the new GL has presence but won't intimidate. Choose the right model and you can have a contrasting colour for the front spoiler and sill trims; it's a subtle addition but a remarkably effective one.

Comprehensive

You take a half-step up into the driver's seat to be greeted by a cabin that is clear, comprehensive in its offerings and generous with its luxury. You sit high of course, not precariously so but with a fantastic view of what's ahead. The layout of the dashboard is familiar Mercedes, as is the quality, so it's pretty straightforward to control all the systems and the feeling of luxury is unquestionable. Features like the part-wood steering wheel might sound excessive but it is these small touches that give an S-class experience. More than anything, however, it is

the driving that could lead you to believe you are ensconced in a luxury saloon. For starters, the level of refinement is first rate. Whether you go for petrol or diesel power at low to middling cruising speeds, the engine is virtually silent, wind noise is well suppressed and despite their size, the wheels only transmit a faint rumble. Add into that the superb ride quality delivered by the revised air suspension system and you have a seriously comfortable car for you and your passengers - it could easily perform limousine duties for those needing something a little tougher. The GL's seven seats don't present the usual problems: an electric folding system means you can raise or lower the second and third rows with the briefest push of a button. It may be comfort-biased, but the GL is far from being an automotive pudding. For starters, the steering is light and accurate, offering more than sufficient feel to deliver comfortable cruising and confident cornering. The air suspension in standard form is well judged, but the optional set-up adds

active anti-roll bars which are genuinely effective and create a scarcely-believable cornering experience almost completely without body roll. In the UK, the most popular version will inevitably be the GL350 CDI, which offers up 190hp and 620Nm of torque, all delivered through the smooth seven-speed automatic transmission. There is ample torque available from low revs and the GL350 CDI simply gets on with the job. Under full acceleration such is the linearity of the delivery that it almost feels languid, but the 0-62mph time of 7.9 seconds tells no lies - particularly remarkable when you consider the GL350 can manage 192g/km and beat forthcoming EU6 emission regulations. The GL is the kind of car that could easily stay in your life for years simply because you know it can handle whatever you throw at it, the bonus being that it is also very desirable in its own right. But if you have the means, treat yourself to the blockbusting AMG version...



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47 Monthly Payments (duration 48 months)	£249.00	Option to Purchase Fee	£65.00
On The Road Price (cash price)	£16,955.00	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125.00
Customer Deposit	£249.00	Total Amount Payable	£18,947.30
Deposit including £1,500 Honda contribution	£1,749.00	Interest Rate per Annum	4.29%
Total Amount of Credit	£15,206.00	Representative APR	4.90%

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Model shown: Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Manual in non-metallic Milano Red at £16,955 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic registrations (including Civic Ti) from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due; the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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HONDA

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REPRESENTATIVE EXAMPLE: 1.2 i-VTEC SE MANUAL		Final Payment (inc. Option to Purchase Fee)	£3,628.77
47 Monthly Payments (duration 48 months)	£185.00	Option to Purchase Fee	£65.00
On The Road Price (cash price)	£11,605.00	Credit Acceptance Fee	£125.00
Customer Deposit	£185.00	Total Amount Payable	£13,008.77
Deposit including £500 Honda contribution	£685.00	Interest Rate per Annum	4.10%
Total Amount of Credit	£10,920.00	Representative APR	4.90%

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 40.9 – 61.4 (6.9 – 4.6), Extra Urban 57.7 – 64.2 (4.9 – 4.4), Combined 50.4 – 62.8 (5.6 – 4.5). CO₂ emissions: 129 – 104g/km.

Model shown: Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC SE Manual in non-metallic Milano Red at £11,605 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Jazz and Jazz Hybrid registrations (including Jazz Si) from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due; the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

Servicing: Three years' complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first, and includes a maximum of three services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only.



Porsche insists the Cayenne S Diesel is the only V8 SUV to offer stop-start technology

Cayenne S Diesel delivers top torque and fuel saving

Porsche has announced a new Cayenne S Diesel, which brings huge torque figures and very reasonable fuel economy.

The 4.2-litre V8 engine produces 376bhp, but more importantly 627lb.ft of torque – more than double what a standard Porsche 911 produces.

It's enough to power the SUV behemoth from rest to 62mph in just 5.7 seconds.

Its top speed is 157mph, and thanks to a stop-start system, its CO2 output is officially rated at only 218g/km.

Porsche claims the Cayenne S Diesel is the only V8 diesel SUV in the world to have stop-start technology.

Fuel consumption tested on the standard combined cycle reaches 34mpg, which, when combined with the S Diesel's 100-litre fuel tank means that a total of up to 745 miles is possible between fill-ups.

This new performance diesel is styled to look very much the same as the petrol Cayenne S. It's also fitted with a sophisticated tracking system, equivalent to Thatcham category five level.

Standard equipment includes

Porsche Traction Management (PTM) all-wheel drive, which aims to provide a rear-wheel-drive feel but with the traction advantages of four driven wheels.

Buyers will also get a leather interior, dual-zone automatic climate control, front and rear parking sensors, cruise control, an audio system operated through a seven-inch touch-screen, eight-way powered adjustment for the front seats, 18-inch alloy wheels and a three-year warranty.

Prices will start at £58,243 when the model goes on sale in early 2013.

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56 Reg 207 Sport

£4195 or £28 pw

£20 OR £30 A YEAR ROAD TAX			
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59 Reg KIA PICANTO 1.0 i. Black, CD, 5-door, Ins Grp 2, £20 Year Road Tax, FSH, 6k	£5195	£33	
56 Reg PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN. Yellow, CD, Ins Grp 1, £20 Year Road Tax, FSH	£3695	£24	
06 Reg RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE. Gold, A/C, Alloys, CD, £30 Year Road Tax, FSH	£4195	£28	
12 Reg NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ASENTA. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Sat Nav, £30 Year Road Tax, 5 door, FSH, 5k	£6695	£52	

PRESTIGE, CONVERTIBLES & SPORTS			
	Sale Price	Wkly Eqv	
52 Reg HYUNDAI COUPE 2.0 SE. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather Sport Seats	£2195	£15	
56 Reg RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE CABRIOLET. Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4695	£30	
55 Reg RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE CABRIOLET. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 28k	£4195	£28	
58 Reg JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 D SE. Blue, 2009, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather, Sat Nav, FSH	£7195	£42	
55 Reg MERCEDES - BENZ A180 CDI ELEGANCE SE. Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£5195	£33	
07 Reg MINI ONE 1.4. Gold, CD Player, Half Leather Sport Seats, FSH	£6695	£42	
53 Reg MINI COOPER 1.6. Silver, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4695	£30	
58 Reg NISSAN MICRA C+ 1.4 VISIA CONVERTIBLE. Black, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4695	£30	
06 Reg NISSAN MICRA C+ 1.6 SPORT CONVERTIBLE. Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4195	£28	
06 Reg HONDA CIVIC 1.8 i-VEE EC. Bronze, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5695	£36	
58 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTI SRI (150) COUPE. Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 3-door	£6195	£39	
06 Reg VAUXHALL TIGRA 1.4 EXCLUSIVE CABRIOLET. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather seats	£4995	£32	

LOW INSURANCE HATCHBACKS			
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07 Reg FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE SPORT. Red, Alloys, CD, Ins Grp 3, FSH	£3895	£26	
09 Reg FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE. Black, CD, Ins Grp 3, FSH, 21k	£5195	£33	
57 Reg FORD KA 1.3i ZETEC. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Col coded, low Ins 3, 22k	£3495	£23	
06 Reg FORD KA 1.3i STYLE. Silver, Col coded, low Ins 3, FSH, 29k	£2695	£17	
52 Reg FORD KA 1.3i. Blue, CD, Low Ins 2, Part exchange to clear	£1395	na	
57 Reg FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC. Green, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, Low Ins 4, 32k	£5195	£33	
57 Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION. Silver, A/C, CD, Low Ins Grp 2, FSH	£3695	£24	
55 Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.1 EXTREME. Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Grp 3	£2495	£15	
06 Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE S. Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, Ins Grp 4, FSH	£3695	£24	
59 Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME. White, A/C, CD, Ins Grp 3, FSH	£5195	£33	
06 Reg PEUGEOT 107 1.4 DOLCE. Silver, A/C, CD, Sliding doors, Ins Grp 3, FSH, 36k	£3195	£26	
06 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i SXi+. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Low Ins Grp 3, FSH, 34k	£3695	£26	
56 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i SXi+. Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, Leather Sport Seats, Low Ins Grp 3, FSH	£3495	£23	
08 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0i LIFE. Blue, CD, Low Ins Grp 1, FSH, 19k	£5195	£33	

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56 Reg CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6 HDI EXCLUSIVE MPV. Red, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD	£4195	£28	
11 Reg NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ASENTA. Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, Chrome pack, FSH, 13k	£11695	£68	

	Sale Price	Wkly Eqv	
06 Reg PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDI ESTATE. Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4195	£28	
57 Reg PEUGEOT 407 1.6 HDI SE ESTATE. Grey, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£5195	£33	
07 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV. Gold, A/C, Alloys, CD, 47k	£4195	£28	
07 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV. Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£4195	£28	
56 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV. Red, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH	£3395	£22	
56 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV. Black, A/C, Alloys, CD, 34k	£4195	£28	
08 Reg VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 LIFE MPV. Silver, A/C, CD, FSH, 23k	£5195	£33	
57 Reg VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 LIFE MPV. Blue, CD, Ins Grp 4, 47k	£4195	£28	
06 Reg VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 ACTIVE MPV. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 7 seater, FSH	£4695	£30	
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07 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 VVT AUTOMATIC MPV. Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 38k	£4695	£30	
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08 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SPORT. Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door	£4495	£29	
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58 Reg PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDI SPORT. Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 41k	£6395	£39	
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PEUGEOT 307 1.4 ENVVOY, 2004, petrol, 5 door, JVC DVD/CD player, a/c, e/c, ew, MOT and tax, £1,350. 07890 762649.

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RARE NISSAN SUNNY SLX 2 Door Coupe 1986, 90,000 miles, Red, MOT, tax, £995 ono. 07966 014623.

RENAULT CLIO, 02 reg, excellent condition, low miles, 8 months MOT, 075 n.o. 01902 745071.

RENAULT MEGANE Cabriolet, Y reg, 80,000 miles, black, air con, MOT, tax, CD, leather interior, owned 8 years, £1,350 ono. 07835 466831.

RENAULT SCENIC ALIZE, 1999, green, MOT, metallic paint, sunroof, stereo, MPV, £500. 07827 854994.

ROVER 100 5dr, 1.1, 1996, 40,000 miles, very good condition, MOT May, £395. 07956 359758.

ROVER 200 1.4 V Reg, silver, 3dr, hatchback, 74k, 3 months tax, 9 months MOT, alloys, CD, Radio £595 ono. 07758 896990.

ROVER 25, 16v, X reg, 67,000 miles, good, long MOT, tax, drives well, fully reliable, bargain £495. 01902 44839.

SAAB 95 ARC, 2.0 Auto, 2002, 185BHP, 24-38MPG, leather, climate, taxed and MOT, 4dr, August 2013, tax December, £1,150. 07743 692682.

SKODA OCTAVIA SDI 1.9 Diesel, 1994, V reg, 100,000 miles, 11 months MOT, £2,150. 07547 208457.

SUZUKI VITARA, 1997, V6, 2.0, 5dr, 10 months MOT, 2 months tax, 68k, good condition, EW, CL, £695 ono. 07448 872524.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 CDX, Y reg, Long MOT, Very reliable, 3dr, Hatchback, £795 n.o. 07825 507693.

VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE Auto, 02 reg, 75k, Tax, MOT, Immaculate, £1,295. Genuine callers only. 07730 899325.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 2001 auto, blue, 12 months tax and MOT, recent full service, £1,200, good condition 07879 566670.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8LS, 5 door, hatch, 1998, e/w, alloy wheels, MOT, tax, excellent condition, £530. 01384 401209.

VW GOLF 1.8GTi 1999, red, tax/MOT, 86k, excellent condition, £1,275 ono. 01902 846551.

VW GOLF GTI, W reg, 5dr, red, 12 months MOT, A/SR, all electric, 17 inch alloys, well looked after car, £1,500 ono. 07896 651256.

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VW CAMPERVAN Doornobile, 1971, green/white, long MOT, tax exempt, good condition for age, £500. 01902 847690.

commercial vehicles
VAUXHALL ASTRA Van 1.7 DTI, 01, White, 89k, full MOT, stereo, tow bar, £599. 07927 357057.

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

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GOLDEN RETRIEVER puppies, KC applied, Parents by hip/eye tested. Ready now. 01746 780344 or 07973 521391.

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Four Jack Russells

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Jack: 2yrs old tan Terrier Cross boy, good with other dogs, smashing little pet.
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KITTENS Males and Females, Gingers, black/white, tortois, £30. Call 07835 651138.

KITTENS two black/white female, one black male, 8 weeks, Flead, wormed, £20. 07914 538046.

KITTENS Xs fully weaned, litter trained, boys/girls, mixed colours, tabbys, gingers, tortois etc £45. Call 01902 887557.

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WILBUR, Chihuahua cross little boy, 4 years old, nicknamed Smiley because he smiles when he greets you.

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Both of these beautiful little dogs need special, loving homes and plenty of TLC.

They both have super temperaments and hate being in kennels.

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An early lead then Old Hales ship five

Old Halesonians 3 Wolverhampton 5
OLD HALESONIANS' hockey firsts' final pre-season game ended in disappointment after they lost a three-goal lead as Wolverhampton scored five goals to win at Great Park.

Tom Bulteel was first on the scoresheet early on, when he fired past the Wolverhampton keeper.

Hales dominated possession and Knight was able to capitalise on this, when he doubled the home teams' advantage following an effective counter attack after 20 minutes.

But Hales lost their structure and the visitors took advantage and scored three goals in quick succession prior to the half-time break.

In the second period Hales were unable to take their chances and Wolverhampton piled on the pressure.

They grabbed a fourth before a somewhat lucky through ball from the halfway line, found its way to the Wolves striker who made it 5-2.

Hales grabbed a consolation late on wh a cross come shot from Doug Houghton was turned goalwards by a defender.

This week, Old Hales start their MRHA West Midlands Premier campaign with a trip to Hampton-in-Arden.

Khalsa 4 Old Halesonians 1
Old Halesonians lost a friendly at last season's West Midlands Premier League champions Khalsa.

The teams played three 30-minute periods instead of 70-minute match, providing a further test to the young, enthusiastic Old Hales players.

The first period saw Old Hales start exceptionally well and despite several attacks upon the Hales defence, Khalsa were left frustrated.

Old Hales broke the deadlock with a fine passing move between Charles Palmer and Ashley Greaves that left defender trailing and managed to beat the goalkeeper leaving Palmer to tap in from close range.

The second period saw Khalsa pile on pressure to scored twice in quick succession. In the third period, Khalsa scored two more as the Hales team tired.

Old Halesonians 2 Finchfield 1
The thirds dominated but had to rely on a brace from Adam Hill for victory.

Other Results: Finchfield 2 Old Hales 4th 2, Finchfield Badgers 1 Old Hales Badgers 1.

Under-10s pegged back in table-topper

Boys League
Halas Hawks North U9 0 West Hagley U9 1

HALAS began well, but the visitors fought back with a sustained period of pressure forcing the home keeper Ryan Wood into several excellent saves.

West Hagley caught Halas on the break early in the second half scoring the only goal of the game.

CS Colts U9 1 Halas Hawks East U9 2
A tight first half finished 0-0 but in the second period Connor Chater gave Halas the lead. Colts forced Halas back and equalised before Chater popped up again to score the winner. Hawks goal-

keeper Michael Waugh produced some fine saves to keep Halas in front.

Halas Hawks East U10 2 Brandhall U10 3

Although Halas got off to a slow start, they took the lead through Jack Plant, but then gave away two own goals before half-time.

Tommy Swancott scored early in the second half to even things up, but again Halas gifted Brandhall the winner.

Penn Colts U10 2 Halas Hawks West U10 2

An exciting top of the table clash saw Halas leading 2-1 with minutes to go before a cross-cum-

Halas Hawks

shot evaded Ben Jones in the Halas goal to level matters. Halas goals came from Jayke Adams and a well-taken penalty by Harvey Brookes. George Priest gave a commanding performance at the heart of Halas defence.

Halas Hawks U14 2 Wren Nest Wanderers U14 2

The under-14s squandered a two-goal lead against Wrens Nest. In terrible conditions both teams tried to pass the ball and Halas were rewarded when Connor Fisher rounded the keeper

to slot home. The second half saw Halas double their lead when Callum Hudson nodded in from a corner but they took their foot off the pedal and conceded two goals to make the final score 2-2. Centre-half Jack Finch gave a solid display.

Gornal Colts U15 6 Halas Hawks U15 2
Halas took the lead in the first minute through Adam Higginson, but Gornal hit back with six goals.

A consolation goal from Charlie Bagley made it 6-2 for the home team. Man of the match was Dominic Hipkiss.

Halas Hawks U16 5 Bilbrook U16 0
The under-16s won with goals from Dan Willetts (penalty), Josh

March, Callum Whitehouse, Rhys Boswell and Jon Rizzo.

Withymoore U17 2 Halas Hawks U17 2
The U17s travelled to Withymoore and came away with a 2-2 draw thanks to goals from Sharn Shelley and Lewis Hatfield.

Bilbrook 5 Halas Hawks 2

Horrendous weather conditions forced both teams into defensive errors. Halas went ahead through a superb Ben Hughes strike only for Bilbrook to equalise before half-time. Halas regained the lead early in the second half through Joe Powell but Bilbrook then scored a further four goals to end the game 5-2 winners.

Luckless hosts are hit for six

Girls League
Wyre Forest U15 0 Halas Hawks U15 6

DESPITE a brave effort from Wyre Forest, they had no answer to a dominating performance from the Halas Hawks under-15 girls.

Amy Blakemore scored four with Mia Bell and Kayleigh Pomfret getting one each in a 6-0 win.

Wordestry Wasps U16 2 Halas Hawks U16 2

For the second game running, the under-16s found themselves two down.

But they produced another spirited comeback, stepping up a gear after the interval.

Their play was rewarded by a brace from Liz McAlenan.

Hales were unlucky not to take all the points in the dying seconds but had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Peacocks have reason to be proud

Gornal Athletic 0 Worcester City 4

GORNAL ATHLETIC gave their Blue Square North visitors Worcester City some uneasy moments before they left the Garden Walk Stadium 4-0 winners to book their place in the FA Cup third qualifying round.

In front of a crowd of nearly 400, the scoreline was harsh on Gornal.

They dominated the first-half but were punished for failing to capitalise on their chances.

Once Worcester were in front, there only ever looked like being one winner but they endured plenty of anxious times during the first-half, as the Peacocks rose to the task of trying to produce a cup upset.

Despite being two goals down, Gornal continued to take the game to Worcester but their solid defence restricted the home side to long range shots, none of which could find the target.

With Worcester in complete control they got a third in the 76th minute and their fourth in the last minute of the game.

The Peacocks can be proud of their achievement against an opponent three leagues above them.

The scoreline was a harsh reflection of the Midland Alliance minnows' spirit and endeavour.

It was the biggest game in the club's 93-year history.

Clarke plays his sub cards to perfection

Albion 1 Reading 0

PAUL LAMBERT beware. Villa may have beaten Manchester City in the Capital One Cup. But this Sunday's Villa Park derby with Albion is looming.

And the Baggies are never more dangerous than when Steve Clarke starts making changes, *writes Martin Swain.*

In the previous home game, Albion's head coach tipped a tight, tight contest with Everton his way by introducing Peter Odemwinge and Chris Brunt at just the right time. Odemwinge broke away to set up Shane Long's first and Brunt supplied a sublime service for Gareth McAuley to clinch the victory.

On Saturday, another finely-balanced clash was decided in the Baggies' favour when substitutes Graham Dorrans and Long chiselled Romelu Lukaku's second-half match-winner out of the deadlock.

Recovery

Too much can be made about substitutions, but these decisive impacts off the bench are not without significance in the continuing story of West Bromwich Albion, a growing Premier League club.

Clarke now has a depth of talent at The Hawthorns which his opposite number in the battle of the West Midlands next week would envy – and it is paying dividends.

Let us not forget that Saturday's important recovery result after the downturn at Fulham was achieved while the team's most potent game-changer of the last two years, Odemwinge, was a spectator in the media seats because of suspension.

This thickening seam of resource means Albion don't drop players any more. They rest them. Clarke was able to take on this challenge with Long, who has now emerged as the team's most effective 'leader of the line', making way for the emerging Lukaku.

His delight on scoring the game's only



Three-pointer – Romelu Lukaku fires home Albion's winning goal



Albion's Youssef Mulumbu outjumps Adam Le Fondre

goal after 71 minutes said everything about how much it meant to him; the potential of his game, raw but undoubtedly monstrous, raises questions about how on earth Chelsea concluded they could do without him.

Lukaku looks five years short of being another Didier Drogba, which means that even now, at 19, he is a scary enough prospect for defenders. He has pace, strength, power and no mean technical ability and the Baggies fans are taking to him big-time.

It is just a little surprising that fewer than 24,000 turned up to see the team climb to such lofty heights in the world's most celebrated domestic league.

Of course, these are demanding economic times for everyone but that is an attendance which explains why expanding The Hawthorns has not been a straightforward decision, especially at a club which tries to

factor into its pricing strategy the community's financial hardship.

The Baggies fans who were there did not witness a vintage performance, but this only adds another important entry into the team's Premier League ledger – winning without playing anything like your best is a key ingredient for any successful team.

Albion were guilty of playing without due care and attention for long periods and almost paid the penalty in lost points.

From the outset, they bore the look of a side which knew it had the measure of newly-promoted Reading and, at times, rather indulged themselves.

But make no mistake – this was a game Albion always had under their command even if they were never out of third gear.

They had it within them to construct more threatening forays towards the Reading keeper who became the latest

McCarthy to endure a disappointing match-day experience at The Hawthorns.

His best efforts both denied James Morrison. A finger-tip full-stretch save after Morrison had been played in by a gloriously disguised Zoltan Gera pass came early in the game before an even better effort to clutch a stinging volley from the edge of the area.

Jonas Olsson's header hit the woodwork and Albion fans began to wonder whether their team's seemingly indifferent mood would squander points. And that's where Clarke now has the luxury of sending in players with the real ability to change things. Dorrans for Gera, Long for Morrison. The pair did for Reading.

Dorrans picked out his fellow sub with precision and Long had the freshness in his spring to head the ball into Lukaku's path. The left-foot shot was one too many for McCarthy to deal with.

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Whoops
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No repeat win, but Tipton get the draw

Kirby Muxloe 0 Tipton Town 0
TIPTON TOWN were unable to emulate last season's fine 3-2 victory in Leicester, instead having to settle for a 0-0 draw.

It was not all dour defending, however, and the Black Country side, with a little more sharpness and invention, could well have repeated their success.

In the 12th minute, home centre-forward Sam Taylor and Tipton's Michael Wardle collided in competing for a free-kick that was pumped into the box and both needed lengthy medical attention before being able to resume.

After 21 minutes Paul Henley and Tom Tonks combined well to create an opening, but smart goal-keeping by Kirby's Tom Holyoak snuffed out the chance.

Early in the second half Holyoak made a hash of a routine save, clumsily spilling the ball but the advancing Tipton forwards were just out of range.

On the hour a more promising move by Tipton saw Nathan Waite play Karl Edwards in on goal but loss of composure was the visiting forward's downfall.

Further worthy efforts from Tonks and Edwards extended home keeper Holyoak.

Kirby came back again with Brett Darby a seemingly certain scorer in the 83rd minute, but he shot just past the Tipton post.

Darby had another late chance but Richard Huckfield and Paul Henley scrambled the ball clear.

Brummies' dates fixed

BIRMINGHAM, gunning for silverware in speedway's two major Elite League competitions, have agreed play-off dates with Swindon.

Next week see Swindon at Perry Barr on Monday with the return at the Abbey Stadium on Thursday.

The Selco Brummies were also due at Belle Vue last night to begin their Knock-out Cup campaign with the return tie at Perry Barr on October 11.

Brummies boss Graham Drury insists the cup will not deflect his team's attention from the play-offs.

He said: "I can understand some may feel the cup is a distraction, but it's an opportunity to chase down some silverware."

Jean's late winner keeps unbeaten run going

Romulus 0 Halesowen Town 1

HARD-WORKING Halesowen Town moved up to third in the Evo Stik First Division South with a winner five minutes from time by Jean Gueyes.

They remain unbeaten away, and it was a tactical switch by caretaker boss Colin Brookes that helped to secure all three points on Monday night.

When Dan Evans came off, Gueyes, who had caused problems on the right side of midfield all evening, was moved up front.

A diagonal ball from Nathaniel Caines found him and he got between two defenders and shot home. Halesowen had been

Halesowen Town

forced to soak up a lot of pressure from the home side, with goalkeeper Paul Evans again in great form.

Chances were few and far between though before Gueye's strike, although in the dying minutes, Halesowen were again called upon to defend solidly to secure the win.

Brigg Town 2 Halesowen Town 2

Halesowen continued their fine run of form at the weekend, coming from two goals down at half-time to earn a point in Lincolnshire.

But they lost the services of top scorer Ben

Haseley, who was taken off five minutes into this game with a hamstring injury.

Halesowen were under pressure from the start, with goalkeeper Paul Evans making a number of good saves.

Brigg finally did take the lead on 42 minutes through midfielder Bruno Holden, and increased it right on the break.

Holden was later the second player to be injured when he broke his leg in the second half.

Halesowen got a goal back on 52 minutes when Brendan Kelly produced a great pass for Luke Corbett to run onto and score.

Two minutes later a cross field pass found

Craig Millington who chested it down and hit the equaliser.

Shortly after, substitute Dan Evans, who had come on for Haseley, found himself clean through on goal and lobbed the keeper but the ball hit the top of the net.

Right on time, Evans robbed a Brigg defender and square the ball for Corbett to slide in but the ball was scrambled off the line.

The Yeltz take a break from league action on Saturday when they entertain Gresley Rovers in the FA Trophy. The club were looking to start interviews for the vacant manager's post during this week.

Carl still has his sight on title race

TWO MORE podium finishes took Carl Breeze to within just 15 points of the Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup series lead for Wednesday team Total Control Racing.

Success in the flagship Ginetta championship at Rockingham last weekend made it 16 podium finishes from 22 races.

The Wednesday team also celebrated podium success in both the weekend's AirAsia Renault UK Clio Cup encounters with James Dixon securing a brace of top three results to consolidate third in the driver standings.

"It's been a very good weekend for both squads," said TCR team principal Lee Brookes. "With five races still to go, Carl really has got a great chance at challenging for the title."

Perfect

Just two Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup races were contested over the weekend and Breeze made absolutely perfect starts to both to put himself in contention.

Rocketing away from second on the grid to lead round 21 on Saturday afternoon, the Kings Lynn driver built a cushion of more than a second until his advantage was negated when the safety car was deployed after his team-mate Jamie Orton and championship leader Tom Sharp got caught up and had to retire.

Breeze led away when the race resumed but Tom Ingram caught him and stole first spot in the final lap.

In Sunday's round 22, Breeze finished third. Orton bounced back from his race one disappointment to be seventh.

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GOALS GALORE AS TIVIDALE BOW OUT

TIVIDALE went out of this year's FA Cup competition after an epic battle with Blue Square North side Hinckley United.

Hinckley started the better and did not look like a side at the foot of their league. After eight minutes, they opened the scoring thanks to a superb 30-yard screamer.

Aaron Cole hammered a shot from the edge of the area that flew towards the top corner, rattling the stanchion before rebounding out and Dan Newton made sure as to whether it was a goal by putting the rebound in.

They doubled their lead on 25 minutes with another excellent strike from the edge of the penalty area.

This time it was Aron Wint who scored, curling the ball out of the reach of goalkeeper Tim Beech.

Tividale hit back immediately when the Hinckley defence failed to deal with a corner played across the face of goal and Arun Jephcott slotted the ball into the net.

But within five minutes, Hinckley restored their two-goal advantage.

Vigour

Wint tried to lift the ball over Luke Paskin, but the defender was judged to have blocked it with his hand resulting in a penalty.

Newton comfortably beat Beech with the spot-kick, leaving the half-time score at 3-1 to Hinckley.

Tividale came out for the second half with renewed vigour and looked to apply some proper pressure on Hinckley.

It nearly paid off on the hour when Hinckley goalkeeper Robert Peet acrobatically turned over a volley from James Cooper.

But Tividale did not have to wait long to claim their reward.

From the resulting corner taken by Cooper, Peet made a complete hash of collecting

Hinckley Utd 5 Tividale 3

the ball and it went to the back post where Richard Taylor headed home.

The goal seemed to galvanise Hinckley and, after Tividale made a substitution replacing Chilton with Adam Hill, they restored their two-goal cushion.

Jack Lane found space down the right and played in Wint running into the area who, in turn, pulled the ball back for Newton 10 yards out, who side stepped one tackle before slotting past Beech to make it 4-2.

Tividale were not giving up and replied again almost from the kick-off.

Cooper was felled in the area and Jephcott scored his second goal of the game, beating Peet with the spot-kick to give Tividale new hope at 4-3.

But, in the 80th minute, Hinckley completed the scoring with Jack Lane grabbing the goal of the game.

He raced down the right and cut inside on to his left foot to fire home.

After falling at the first hurdle in their recent FA Cup campaigns, Tividale can be proud to have run a Blue Square North outfit so close.

Bradley races home with points for new team



Halesowen rider Bradley Hughes gets to know his new 125cc Repelli-Cast Honda in the round at Assen, Holland
Picture: Mike Lawrence, www.superbikesnapper.co.uk

HALESOWEN rider Bradley Hughes brought a handful of championship points home to his new team with an eighth place finish in the Monster Energy British Motostar championship Cup.

He also claimed 10th place in the overall British Championship on his first outing for Team Repelli-Cast UK Racing at Assen in Holland on Sunday.

Having lost a major sponsor and forced to withdraw from the Donington Park round of the series, it looked as if the 15-year-old's season was over.

But with new backing from Gary

Dawson, team manager of parts and bodywork firm Repelli-cast Racing, he was offered a seat on the team's 125cc Honda for the remainder of the season.

It was always going to be a difficult weekend as the youngster was to travel to Assen in Holland with a new team and race a new bike on an unfamiliar circuit mixed in with a field of Dutch championship riders.

With the British and the Dutch championship riders all together on one grid, Hughes began his campaign from a seventh row grid position in 25th place.

Hughes was the 10th-placed British

rider. As the race began, he completed the first lap in 23rd place overall (13th Briton) and continued to make good progress throughout the 12-lap affair.

He crossed the line in 20th place which scored him six championship points for 10th place in the British Championship.

Hughes was the eighth Motostar Cup competitor over the finish line and scored eight championship points in that class.

Two championship rounds remain, the next being this weekend at Silverstone.



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